

# ***YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN***

## ***JOHN 3:1-7***

### ***HOW IMPORTANT IS BEING “BORN AGAIN”?***

- Mormons and several other cults actually call evangelical Bible-believing Christians “***Born Agains***” as a derogatory term. Is that so? ***According to Jesus, it is a necessity for eternal life.***
- A person, without being baptized, without ever setting foot inside a church building, without ever tithing, without even owning a Bible, can get to heaven, but he/she can never go there without being born again in Christ Jesus . . . ***it’s that important!***

# ***THREE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS***

- 1.** To make the reality of a man's sinful past as though it had never happened
- 2.** To make a dead man alive again
- 3.** To make a man as certain of God as God is of Himself

*Born once, die twice; born twice, die once—the choice is yours! **REV. 2:11, 20:6-14, and 21:8***

# ***I. THERE MUST BE A NEW BIRTH***

All human beings have experienced natural birth on earth; but if they expect to go to heaven, they must experience a supernatural spiritual birth from above.

- Jesus picked up on Nicodemus' questioning words and further explained the new birth.
- Just as there are two parents for physical birth, so there are two "parents" for spiritual birth: the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. **JOHN 3:5, 1 PETER 1:23**

## ***II. WHAT IS “BORN OF WATER”?***

***Jesus was not teaching that the new birth comes through water baptism!***

- In the New Testament, baptism is connected with death, not birth; and no amount of physical water can effect a spiritual change in a person.
- The emphasis in **JOHN 3:14-21** is on believing, because salvation comes through faith. **EPH. 2:8-9**
- Baptism is a sign of obedience because we are saved, not a requirement to be saved.

### ***III. NEW BIRTH BRINGS NEW LIFE***

With that **NEW LIFE** we become “*partakers of the divine nature*” (**2 PETER 1:4**)—*God’s life and nature*.

- The opposite of life is death, and the person who has not believed on Jesus Christ does not have God’s life, eternal life, abundant life.
- Birth to new life involves a future and we are “*born again to a living hope*.” **1 PETER 1:3**
- If you want that bright future “*you must be born again,*” no matter who you are!

## ***IV. UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM***

It is hardly possible to appreciate the implications of this message until one fully understands what sin is.

- The Bible teaches that sin is *a nature* and not merely an act or word—***and we are born with it!***
- Sinful deeds are the product of a sinful nature producing a sinful life.
- David declared, “*Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*”

**PSALM 51:5**

# ***V. HOW ESSENTIAL IS BEING BORN AGAIN?***

- Nothing else is good enough to gain you a pass on this one requirement for salvation.
- If God says man's best righteousness is as filthy rags, no argument can change His opinion. **ISA. 64:6**
- Close to born again does not count.
- No matter how externally good you may be, it's not good enough to get you into heaven!

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