

What Does it Mean to be Born Again?

What's the Big Deal About Jesus? Part IX

John 3:1-21

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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I. Why should someone be born again?

Reason #1: It is the only way to have access to the Kingdom of God. (verse 3:3)

Reason #2: It is God's cure for sin's "deadly bite." (verses 3:14-16)

Reason #3: It will result in eternal life. (verses 3:14-16)

II. How can someone be born again? They must:

1. Understand it is a work of the Holy Spirit, not human effort. (verses 3:5-8)

The bad news is: we can't do enough to gain God's approval. The good news is that God has already done it on our behalf.

2. Believe in Jesus. (verses 3:14-18)

III. What will you choose?

The Light (Jesus) or your love for darkness (sin)? (verses 3:19-21)

Quote #1

“R.C. H. Lenski writes... ‘Spiritual birth is something one undergoes, not something he produces. As our efforts had nothing to do with our natural conception and birth, so in an analogous way but on a far higher plane, regeneration is not a work of ours. What a blow for Nicodemus! His being a Jew gave him no part in the kingdom; his being a Pharisee, esteemed holier than other people, availed him nothing; his membership in the Sanhedrin and his fame as one of its scribes went for nought. This Rabbi from Galilee calmly tells him that he is not yet in the kingdom! All on which he had built his hopes throughout a long arduous life here sank into ruin and became a little worthless heap of ashes.’”

~*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1–11* by John MacArthur, Copyright ©2006 Moody Publishers, p. 103.

Quote #2

“Some people are repulsed by the idea of eternal life because their lives are miserable with pain, hunger, poverty, or disappointment. But eternal life is not an extension of a person’s mortal life; eternal life is God’s life embodied in Christ given to all believers now as a guarantee that they will live forever. Not only will we be changed, almost everything else will also be changed (Revelation 21:1-4). In eternal life there is no death, sickness, enemy, evil, or sin. When we don’t know Christ, we make choices as though this life is all we have. In reality, this life is just the introduction to eternity. Receive this new life by faith and begin to evaluate all that happens from an eternal perspective.”

~*Life Application Bible Commentary: John*, by Bruce Barton, et.al., Copyright ©1993 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., p. 64.

Quote #3

“Three times in this context the idea of ‘believing in him’ is used to describe the required response by a person to Christ. The word translated ‘believe’ comes from *pisteo* which means ‘faith’ or ‘belief.’ The way this word is used means more than mental assent. Rather, it has been paraphrased: to have a firm faith; to accept trustfully; to be fully convinced; to place confidence in; to wholeheartedly accept. There is a danger, however, in emphasizing only the idea of ‘belief,’ since belief without an object is merely wishful thinking. The importance of a Christian’s belief is not in the believer, but in the one believed. A person may have a strong belief in a lie, but that faith will not change the lie to truth. Believers anchor their trust in Jesus Christ, who identified himself as truth (14:6).”

~ *Life Application Bible Commentary: John*, by Bruce Barton, et. al.,
Copyright ©1993 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., p. 62.

Quote #4

“**ALL THE GREATEST**

God	the greatest Lover
So loved	the greatest degree
The world	the greatest number
That he gave	the greatest act
His only begotten Son	the greatest gift
That whoever	the greatest invitation
Believes	the greatest simplicity
In Him	the greatest person
Shall not perish	the greatest escape
But	the greatest difference
Have	the greatest certainty
Eternal life	the greatest destiny”

~Quote by J. Edwin Hortell from *Life Application Bible Commentary: John*,
by Bruce Barton, et. al., Copyright ©1993 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., p.
62.