

Are you born again?

About two thousand years ago, there was in Israel a ruler of the Jews called Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a knowledgeable person, well-respected and full of life experiences. One day, he secretly came to meet Jesus the Son of God at night, hoping that he could learn from Jesus the way of obtaining the everlasting life. Nicodemus had seen and heard about miracles performed by Jesus, including the lame could walk, the leprous cured, the blind could see, the deaf could hear, the dead resurrected as well as the powerful preaching of Jesus. Therefore he humbly sought Jesus. However, Jesus did not preach to him but pinpointed his needs, saying, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3) The meaning of ‘see’ in the original text is ‘understand’. Therefore, the meaning of the above scripture is: if one is not born again, he cannot understand the things concerning the kingdom of God. ‘The kingdom of God’ refers to heaven. ‘Born again’ refers to the created man

receiving a new life, the life of God, apart from the physical life he has.

God's only begotten Son Jesus not only pinpointed the needs of that man, but also the needs of all the people in the world. Only when men are really born again and receive the life of God, will they be able to understand the kingdom of God. Otherwise it is impossible for the created men, using their own limited knowledge, to understand the almighty God, the Lord of creation.

The need to be born again

We all agree that only having life of the same kind can communicate with and know each other. Lifeless things cannot communicate with living creatures. For example, girls are fond of dolls, yet they cannot communicate with each other. Besides, living creatures can communicate with and get to know each other only if they possess the same kind of life. Men cannot communicate with plants and animals because their lives are different. Although you have a dog which can recognize you by wagging its tail, yet it cannot chat with you, it will continue to wag its tail no matter when you are sad or happy. On the contrary, if one has a son,

even if his son is not as intelligent as others, the son can still chat with his father and understand his heart because they have the same life.

It is impossible for us, as a created human, to fully understand the Lord of creation. As our lives are different from the life of God, how can we understand Him? Even the best scientists in their lifetime can only learn a small part of the laws of the nature created by God, not to mention knowing God Himself.

Having God's life can understand things concerning God

With careful observation over the years, I can see that a person's knowledge about Jesus will change completely after believing in Jesus. For example, there was a PhD research student who had originally many queries when he first heard about the gospel. He was full of doubts when he read the Bible. Each time we talked about the gospel, he would raise a lot of questions. Although I have provided answers, next time when we met again, he would further raise even more new questions.

One day during our conversation, the Holy Spirit opened and touched his heart. He sincerely accepted Jesus as his Savior and

received the life of God. Wonderful things happened thereafter. From then onward he greatly admired God's Word – the Bible, which he understood well. All queries seem to have vanished. Even he himself was surprised about this. How could a science researcher change completely after he accepted Jesus? This is because he has received God's life and therefore he could know about God.

How God imparts His life to us

In order to receive God's eternal life, the created men have to get rid of the obstacles between God and men – sins. Men's hearts are filled with selfishness, pride, jealousy, malice, craftiness, fraud, deceit, hatred, anger and all kinds of passions and desires which are so filthy and disgraceful. In such conditions, the holy and righteous God cannot live within us. Moreover, we also have to face the future judgment. However, God is full of love, as the Bible says, "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*" (Isaiah 53:6) This is how God loves us, when every one of us because of sins turned to his own way and away from God, facing God's

future judgment alone, God sent His beloved son Jesus to this world to be a scapegoat and died for our sins, bore the judgment of God for us, so that those who believed in Him could be saved from God's judgment and shall not perish.

Apart from this, the salvation accomplished by Jesus on the cross also enabled His believers to overcome the power of sin. As Jesus says, "*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*" (John 12:24) Jesus, like this grain of wheat, had fallen into the ground and died – symbolizes that He, as a man, came to the earth and was crucified on the cross for our sins and was buried. However, He rose from the dead on the third day, releasing His holy and victorious life, so that those who believe in Him shall avoid God's future judgment and the result of being thrown into the lake of fire. Moreover, they can now receive the life of God, become God's children, and can enjoy and experience Father God. How blessed! This is like a grain falls into the ground and continues to grow, and produces much grain. All those who truly repent, believe and accept Jesus are grain produced by Him.

Jesus says: "*Most assuredly I say to you,*

unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5) Water symbolizes repentance, meaning when a man truly turns to God, opens his mouth to pray, believes and accepts Jesus as Savior, God’s Spirit – the Holy Spirit will enter into this man, imparts God’s life to him. This is the meaning of being born again.

New life, new living

We know that every kind of life has its special characteristics. For example, birds fly in the air, fishes swim in the water, pigs love filthy environment and sheep are relatively cleaner..... Similarly, men’s life is under the control of sin, just like pigs. Men incline to the filth of sin. Therefore, God has to save men, through the salvation accomplished by His beloved son, to let all those who believe in Him receive new life which is God’s holy and victorious life, so that men could have a new living. This is why so many people experience behavioral change after believing in Jesus: some had been addicted to gambling, yet they kicked off this bad habit after turning to the Lord; some had indulged in sexual immorality, yet they repented after believing in the Lord; some

had been narrow-minded and loved to provoke others, after believing in Jesus they became peace maker, able to forgive and love others. I heard and witnessed numerous such testimonies in my many years of preaching experience. I confirm that: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12) We have the life of God when we have Jesus, and we have a new living when we have the life of God.

Dear friends, this is what you need today! Please repent and turn to God, believe and accept Jesus as your personal Savior. You will immediately receive Lord Jesus as the Savior of your life. Your sins will be forgiven and you will receive God’s eternal life and experience all the blessings of being born again.

**Please follow the prayer below
loudly and sincerely:**

“Lord Jesus, I believe and accept you as my Savior. Please forgive all the sins that I have committed in my life. Please enter into my heart and impart your life and Holy Spirit to me. I entrust my whole life to you, pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you have truly believed and accepted Jesus by following the above prayer, congratulations to you! God has already pardoned your sins because of Jesus. From now on you should pray to God daily, be close to Him in your soul and spirit. You will experience and enjoy Him more and more, and gradually live a new way of living. May God bless you!