



BELIEVING BIBLE STUDY

Center Grove Baptist Church is pleased to give you this free Bible Study. The study is designed to lead you deeper into the Bible to discover for yourself

- ◆ Why everyone needs to become a Christian,
- ◆ How to do that, and
- ◆ The normal process of growing as a Christian.

The best resource for this study will be a Bible or New Testament that you can easily understand and look up specific verses. If you do not have a Bible or if you feel your Bible translation is too difficult, please contact us. We would like to give you a New Living Translation Bible and show you how to use it.

Our hope is that if you have never believed it necessary to become a Christian, you will now desire to believe, through reading God's Word. If you are already a Christian, the first two lessons will serve to give you a Biblical foundation for what has happened already in your life. Also, the last lesson in the study will really help you to see all of the blessings that God wants His children to have. Lesson three will show you what the Bible says about how a Christian should grow.

The Holy Spirit will direct you in your findings if you ask Him. Pray that God will help you to find the right Scripture to read, have an open heart to accept what it says, and understand fully what God wants to tell you.

We sincerely want to help you begin and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Relationships matter to Center Grove because relationships matter to God. Please let us know how we can help.

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve Miller

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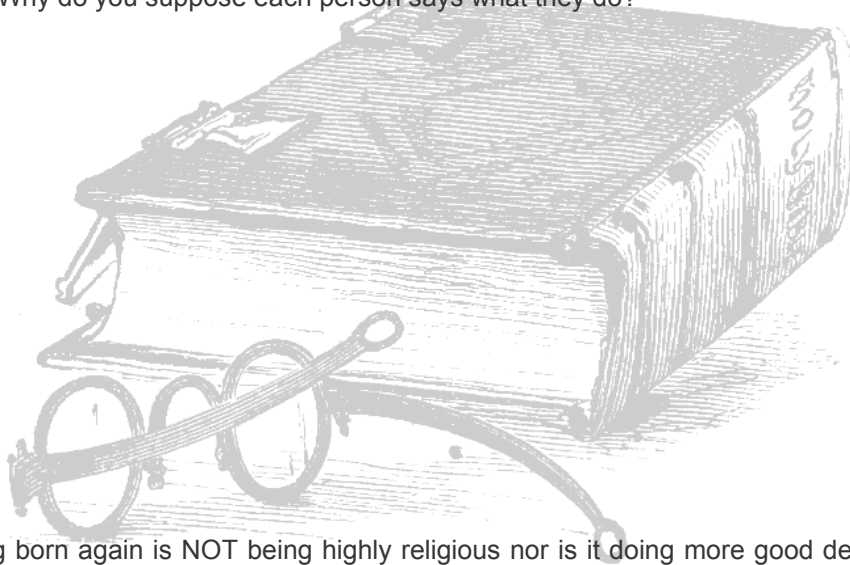
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Lesson 1

A person can be a Christian—a follower of Jesus, the Christ—*only* when he or she has experienced what the Bible describes as "being born again." Jesus said, "You must be born again" in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 7.

To better understand what Jesus means in this verse of Scripture, please read **John 3:1-16** and answer the following questions for yourself, writing down any important insights from the passage.

- ◆ Who are the people talking?
- ◆ What are they saying?
- ◆ Why do you suppose each person says what they do?



Being born again is NOT being highly religious nor is it doing more good deeds than bad. When Jesus said, "You must be born again," He was speaking to Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a religious leader who:

- ◆ fasted twice a week (went without food for spiritual reasons)
- ◆ tithed his income (gave a tenth of his wages as an offering to God)
- ◆ prayed for two hours every day
- ◆ and memorized the first five books of the Bible word-for-word

If doing good and religious things made someone born again, then Nicodemus wouldn't have had to go to Jesus. But when he did go to Jesus, Jesus cut right to the heart of the matter. Jesus did not look at Nicodemus' religious activities or how "good" he was. Jesus immediately questioned if this man had been born again because that is the only thing that allows a person to enter the Kingdom of God—Heaven (see John 3.3,5,7).



Take another look at these verses:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

1. What do you think Jesus would tell people today about being born again? Has God changed the way people are born again?

2. What would be Jesus' answer if Rev. Billy Graham, another good religious leader, asked Jesus what it took to enter the Kingdom of God?

3. Talk aloud or silently to Jesus now and ask, "What does it take to make me born again?" Write down what He tells you.

Lesson 2

Jesus knows for sure that only born again people will be saved from an *eternal separation from God* (Hell) and *saved eternally into God's Kingdom* (Heaven) because He is God's Son.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life." That Son is Jesus the Savior. Jesus tells us through His Word that He is God's "way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). **So we must understand one very important truth: We must be born again.**

Look up the following Scriptures to better understand the need for being born again, and the way to be born again. Fill in the blanks from your Bible. Then when you are ready, go to the next lesson to study the many results of being born again.

1. The Need for Being Born Again

a. **It is for everyone.**

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and _____
_____.

b. **It saves us from eternal death.**

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is _____, But
the _____ of God is _____ through Jesus...

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus who helps you believe that Jesus is real and that He can give you new life as a Christian. The Holy Spirit gives you faith to step out and act on your choice to believe.

2. The Way to Be Born Again

a. **By hearing and believing the Gospel.**

Romans 10:17 So then _____ comes by
hearing ... the Word of Christ.

b. **By asking Jesus to save you.**

Romans 10:13 Whoever will _____
_____ will be saved.

Does God want to help people out of their sin? Since He does, by what way does God save people?

What does it take for me to become a Christian?



Have you ever said something to Jesus aloud or silently like the following?

Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and am sorry for my disobedience to God. Thank you for dying on the cross to take away my sin. Please come into my life now. I want you as my Savior and friend forever. Amen.

If you have prayed something like this prayer and meant what you have said, then **you are a Christian.**

Immediately **thank God** and tell others what has happened. You should especially tell someone close to you who is also a Christian. They may have been praying all along for you to become born again.

One way to tell others about your new life is by showing them a demonstration with water. Being **baptized** shows that the old you is washed away and even buried and the new you is given new life by the authority of God. You can tell a church leader about this and he or she can tell you more. Get involved in a church to worship, develop, and love others more.



d. **Free from slavery to sin.**

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast in _____ by which Christ set us free...

Galatians 5:16 ... Walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill
_____.

e. **Free to live righteously.**

1 John 2:29 If you know that He [Jesus] is righteous, you know that everyone who practices _____ is
_____.

f. **A love for fellow Christians.**

1 John 4:10-11 ... He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to
_____.

God has been the only one working at this point. He has done all it takes for people to become Christians, He is bringing people to Himself through **faith** and He is doing all He promised by giving Christians eternal **life** beginning now with all the results above.

While God's love is a gift, He wants His children to love Him in many ways.

- Telling others about what has happened and being baptized are initial reactions to accepting Christ.
- Linking up with a Christian fellowship/church is very helpful.
- Reading Scripture regularly is extremely important. (Try reading a little out of the Gospel of John or Mark every day and when you're finished do the same with Matthew and Luke.)

Obey all that God tells you through the Bible and His Holy Spirit and you will have peace. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23)

