

# FOREVER CHANGED

The New Birth

By

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# Chapter One

## The New Birth

Who hasn't wished for a new chance and a fresh start?

## You Have Been Given a Second Chance!

The moment you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, your sins were forgiven, and your slate was wiped clean. God is no longer holding your sins against you. When Jesus died on the Cross, He paid the penalty, so you could go free.

## But There's More!

Being forgiven for the past is wonderful, but it is not the only thing that has happened to you. The Bible tells us that when you believed in Jesus, and received Him as your Savior, you received eternal life:

*"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:11-13)*

Having eternal life qualifies you to escape hell and to spend eternity in heaven with God the Father. It is wonderful to know for sure that your future in heaven is secure.

## Chapter Two

### “You Must Be Born Again”

One evening, a religious leader named Nicodemus came to see Jesus. Jesus told him, *“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* Then Jesus said, *“You must be born again.”* (John 3:3 and 3:7)

“Must” means there is no alternative. There are not many roads that lead to heaven. There is only one way: through Jesus Christ.

Later in His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus makes a statement that has become one of the best-known verses of the Bible: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

It is by believing in Jesus that you are born again and receive eternal life. Acts 4:12 tells us, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

### Believe With Your Heart

But saving faith is more than a mental agreement. In fact, most people believe that Jesus lived, that He was a perfect man who sincerely believed Himself to be the Son of God, and that He died on the cross to save sinners. But this sort of mental agreement with the facts is not enough — you must believe with your heart.

*“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.*

*For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:9-13)

Have you called upon the name of Jesus? Have you believed with your heart and confessed with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord? If so, according to the Bible you are born again. If you are not sure, there is a prayer included on the back, inside cover of this book. Take a moment

right now: find it, read it, make it your heart's prayer to God. He will hear you as you call out to Him — and you will be saved.

## A New Spirit

A person is much more than just their body or flesh. Their real self is their spirit. When you prayed, God worked a miracle in your life, and your spirit was born again. Jesus told Nicodemus, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (John 3:6)

When God first created mankind, He said, *"Let us make man in our image, in our likeness"* (Genesis 1:26). "Image" here refers to a person's spirit, while "likeness" refers to their body. When we are born again, our spirit is recreated back into the image of God Himself, as it was in the Garden of Eden.

God recreates every person's spirit individually — and with great care — just as He created Adam in the beginning. One at a time, as each person receives Jesus as Savior and Lord, they are born again by the power of God. They become a new creation. Each time this happens, there's great rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15:7,10).

In the miracle of new birth, we are forever changed. Christ is now in us and we are now in Christ. We are eternally joined with Him, and He has promised never to leave us. Now, when God looks inside of us, He does not see our sin anymore. Instead, He sees Jesus.

*"God has freed us from the power of darkness, and he brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The Son paid for our sins, and in him we have forgiveness."* (Colossians 1:13,14 NCV)

*"You have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."* (1 Peter 1:23 NLT)

God has said, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5 NIV)

## Chapter Three

### Completely Forgiving

*“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT)*

According to God’s Word, if you are born again, you are completely forgiven. God is no longer holding your sins against you because Jesus died on the Cross and paid the penalty so you could go free.

Often, when a person is born again, they experience the weight of guilt being lifted from them. They actually “feel forgiven.” Perhaps you, too, have experienced God’s wonderful forgiveness. It is important to take the next step and find out what the Bible says about forgiveness, so your faith can be based on the sure foundation of God’s Word and not on feelings alone.

### Why Jesus Died

To most people, Christ’s sacrificial death does not make sense at all. They ask, “How can someone dying 2000 years ago make a difference in my life today?” To understand this, we must go even further back in time and see how Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden made a difference in the life of everyone on this planet.

God told Adam:

*“You may freely eat from every tree in the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the day that you eat from that tree you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16,17)*

In the original Hebrew, the word “die” appears twice. It actually reads: “In the day that you eat from that tree, dying (present tense) you shall die (future tense).” That covers both aspects of man — his spirit and his body. The moment Adam ate, his spirit died. At the same moment, death entered Adam’s body, causing his body to eventually die as well. His spirit died instantly; his body died many years later.

Adam and Eve had no children until after the fall. After Adam had lived a hundred and thirty years, the Bible tells us, *“he had a son in his own likeness, in his image; and he named him Seth”* (Genesis 5:3).

Do you see what happened? Adam was made in God’s image, but Seth was made in Adam’s image. The same process goes on every time someone has a child on this earth: the child is born in their parents’ image, and that image goes all the way back to Adam himself.

When Adam disobeyed God, he opened the door to sin and death in the life of every human being ever to be born. The Bible tells us:

*“Sin came into the world through one man and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, [no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned.” (Romans 5:12 AMP)*

“In Adam” or “In Christ?”

The good news is, God had a plan. Even though Adam fathered children who were born with the nature of sin, God made a way for us to escape the power of sin and death. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who completely obeyed His Father and lived a sinless life. Adam brought us death, but Jesus brought us life:

Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides? (Romans 5:18,19 The MSG)

*“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19 NKJV)*

We had no choice about being “in Adam.” We are born in Adam. The results of Adam’s disobedience are a part of every person who is born on the earth. When Adam disobeyed, we disobeyed, just as if we were there with him. When he fell, we fell. The whole race was put in jeopardy and on trial. We were ruined as thoroughly as if we had eaten the fruit ourselves.

Being in Adam was not our choice but getting out of Adam and into Christ is our choice. We had no control at physical birth, but we do have a choice at the new birth. We can walk away from sin and spiritual death by accepting Jesus as our Savior.

We used to be in Adam, now we are in Christ. When Jesus obeyed, we obeyed. When Jesus died, we died with Him. When He was buried, we were buried also. When Jesus was made alive again at the Resurrection, we too were made alive.

## Chapter Four

### You Have Eternal Life

*“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...”* (1 John 5:11-13)

The world has the idea that when they stand before God in judgment, they will be allowed to argue their case individually. When asked, “If you died now, would you go to heaven?” most people answer, “Yes, I believe I would.” They reason that God will look at their good deeds and compare them to their bad deeds. If the good outweighs the bad, they will go to heaven. If the bad outweighs the good, they will end up in hell.

But their reasoning is wrong. They don’t understand God’s plan.

### The Two Trees

God does not deal with us as a field of corn, all standing independently, each with our own roots. Rather, He sees two trees, each with limbs and branches coming from one trunk and root system. When the roots or trunk are severed, the whole tree dies.

In Adam, you are a part of a dead tree. In Christ, you are a part of a living tree. 1 Corinthians 15:22 tells us, *“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”* People will not go to hell because of sin, they will go to hell because they are in Adam. People will not go to heaven because of any good thing they have done. They will go to heaven because they have chosen to be in Christ.

## Chapter Five

### When You Slip

*“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” (1 John 2:1 NIV)*

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

Everyone has failed from time to time. The Bible says a righteous man falls seven times and gets right back up. When we slip, we confess our sin and God cleanses us from all unrighteousness. The grace of God helps us get right back up.

The word translated “confess” in this verse means “to say the same thing.” When we do something wrong, we admit to God what we have done. (He is not surprised. He already knows!) The next step is to agree with Him that it is wrong, that it hurts you or others. He promises that every time we confess our sin, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Your heart will be as clean as it was the day you were born again.

### Doing Our Part

Find a church that teaches from the Bible. Go to church and hear the Word. When you leave church, take your notes and read them, study them, look up the verses in your Bible, meditate on them, confess them, and then become a doer of the Word. That way it becomes a part of you.

In Psalm 1:1-3, God promises blessings to those who hear and obey His Word:

*“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.”*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.*

*He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*



## A Prayer to Receive Jesus as Savior

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*You said in your Word, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED" (Romans 10:9).*

*I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He died on the cross for my sins, and that He was raised from the dead. I now confess Jesus as my Lord, so I know, Father, that according to your Word, I am now saved!*

*Thank You, Father, for forgiving me and for giving me the gift of the new birth. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Welcome to the Family!**