

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:16 (KJV)- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Giving honor to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the men, women, and children of God. This morning we are blessed with a visual into the life of the Israelites and the renewal of the covenant to serve God. Our topic is "You must be Born Again."

Everywhere in this world we find heartache, strife, sickness, disease, famine, poverty, injustice and a host of issues. The Word of God (Bible) gives us the answer to these questions and tells us how to be born again and what that means. It teaches us that the troubles in the world are due to sin. All of mankind is sinful, therefore separated from the holiness of God. Come on somebody. The word teaches us **"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).**

What exactly is sin? Thank You; I'm glad you asked. Well, Sin is a terminal disease that eats away at the very heart of this planet. It destroys individual people, families and cultures, even the earth itself. The Bible says that sin is a *heart condition*. It is a condition of rebellion against God, which stems from pride. The Hebrew definition of the word sin means "to miss the mark". God created us to be like Him, but our pride and rebellion make us fall far short of that purpose. Our actions, though they may be "sinful" are really only the *fruit* of our rebellion against God. Our outward actions merely mirror our true inner condition. It is our true inner condition that God is concerned with. He knows the "real you" better than you yourself do, because he sees "the inner man" and all your secret thoughts and motives. Beloved, please understand that **"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)** **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8**

Though one may lead a "good life" on the outside, God looks on the heart. It is the nature of man to look on the outward, but outward appearances can be deceiving. **"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed *appear* beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Matt. 23:27-28**

We cannot deal with our sin by "cleaning ourselves up" on the outside, when our problem is a heart condition. **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8:34** We are all slaves to our sinful nature, and we can only be cleansed from within.

Since sin is the root cause of all our troubles, we must deal with our sin first if we want less troubles in our lives. How do we get rid of sin? God tells us in His Word that by nature we are "...dead in trespasses and sin;" (Ephesians 2:1) and that we are "...alienated from the life of God..." (Ephesians 4:18). Just as a body without physical life is declared physically dead, so anyone who is separated from God is described in the Bible as spiritually dead. As long as we remain spiritually dead, we cannot know God. So let me share a few nuggets will bless us on this Christian journey:

1. Read God's Word daily. This helps you to learn God's ways and how to overcome your problems and troubles. (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. Pray to God daily. This helps us to develop a prayer life with our lord. We have access through the name of Jesus. are promised that all of our needs shall be met if we will only ask the Father in the name of Jesus. (John 14: 13-15)

3. Fellowship with like believers daily. The lord allows us to grow Godly relationships with others and we serve as the body of Christ. Come experience joy as we grow in unity. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Somebody 'ought to say AMEN.

We all need a new life. I'm going to say it again. We all need a new life!!! We need to be cleansed from sin and it's penalty (which is death) and restored to fellowship with God who made us all. That is what Jesus Christ (God's Son) meant when He said we "**must be born again**" (John 3:7). "**...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**" (John 3:3). Without the experience of the "new birth" we have no hope of enjoying the glories of heaven nor escaping the terrors of hell. Have you been born again?

The "new birth" is not a religion, not living up to a creed, not a set of rituals, nor joining a church or denomination. It's a transformation. Our old nature is changed and we receive a new one. Old things pass away and all things become new in Christ. We receive a new heart, new desires, new ideas, and a new direction because of this new nature. A birth is the coming into being of a new life which has the nature of its parents. When you were born the first time, you were made a partaker of the nature of natural man. When you are born again, you become a partaker of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4). God can become your heavenly Father.

The greatest attribute of God is that He is a God of love. He loves you and He loves me. He loves all sinners and wants to save every one of us from hell and the terrible results of our sin. His Word tells us, "**But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**" (Romans 5:8). "**For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him**" (II Corinthians 5:21). God hates sin because of what it produces-- war, sickness, poverty, etc., but God loves the sinner.

Big Bethel, God sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, so that we might have new, everlasting life. The Bible tells us, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life**" (John 3:16). By His death and resurrection, Jesus paid for our salvation. He broke the power of sin and death, making it possible for us to have everlasting life. The life of God raised

Jesus from the dead and He was the first-born Son into the kingdom of God.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:12-18).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was nailed to a cross by ungodly men for no sin of His own. He was an innocent man-- the only man who was ever perfect and sinless. He never sinned, yet He took your sins and mine by taking an unjust death. Because He did this willingly, He was raised from the dead by His Father and given life and authority over the powers of darkness. God now imparts that same life and authority to all those who come receiving His provision for their sin. **"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7)**

We must accept God's Word that says we all are sinners and know that it is sin that separates us from God and must repent or "turn away" from that sin. Until we each acknowledge, and ask forgiveness for our own guilt, we will never be free from it. It will eventually lead us right into hell. **"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9)**

God wants to give us His power over sin. We cannot conquer sin without that power. God wants to give us life for death, beauty for ashes, health for sickness, joy for grief, peace for strife, love for hate. God's Word says, **"...I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).** Do you want abundant life? This abundant life comes only as we are born again and as we follow on and receive all that God promises us.

It isn't always easy following God, but nothing worthwhile ever was. You may be ridiculed and persecuted. You will face many temptations to fall back into your old nature. But you can be assured that God is with you, and He will give you power to overcome every one of them.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Phil 3:7-9

In closing; you can pray right now and ask God to come into your heart and receive the new birth. Simply talk to Him and repeat the words of Romans 10:9-11, which reads "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in

thine heart that God hath raised him (Jesus) from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. *O' God, I come to you in the name of Jesus, I surrender to you now. I'm throwing in the towel. I believe that Your Word is true. I come to repent for hardening my heart toward you, and delighting myself in things you hate. I don't want to go to hell; I really want to be free of my sin. I ask Jesus to come into my heart and cleanse me of the guilt of my sins. I want to be Your child and learn Your ways. Today, I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Savior so I can experience God's love and plan for my life. Amen*

Beloved, If you said that prayer, you are now a child of God. Now, make up in your mind that you will, no matter what the situation or circumstances look like... Stand. When you've done all you can do; continue to Stand for the Lord. God Bless You and Welcome to the Family. You are Born Again. STAND!!!