

Five Things You Must believe to be Born again

Most people use the wrong thing as the acid test whether or not a person is born again. They use actions and morality as a sign that someone is born again. Good morals do not fully depict believing. Some unbelievers are moral people, but that does not make them born again. These five things are fundamental to genuine faith in Jesus.

According to the scriptures, true salvation is not determined by good deeds or how moral a person is, but by what they believe.

- i) Ephesians 2:8-9
- ii) Galatians 2:16
- iii) Galatians 3:11

What a person believes is the accurate test if someone is born again.

We are born again (saved) by what we believe, not by what we do. This is not to say our actions are not important, they are. However, **the scripture bases salvation on belief not on doing and performance a striking truth that many have missed.**

Most people say they believe in God. With this, I presume they are referring to God—the Father, not Jesus. However, to truly believe in God, we do that by believing in Jesus.

Those who have not believed in Jesus do not truly believe in God.

Jesus is the way (John 14:6-7) and the door (John 10:7-9) to believing in God. In other words, you have to believe in God (Jesus) first to believe in God (Father). Any other means or way is invalid. It disqualifies us and furthermore, the only acceptable and valid means of the entrance into a relationship with God and His family (sheepfold) is through the door (Jesus). Anyone who attempts to use any other means such as a window or ventilator as the entrance and not the door is a thief and robber (John 10:1-10).

It is after we believe in Jesus that we believe in God, the Father and the Holy Spirit. It's like buy one get two free. When you believe in Jesus, you get both the Father and Holy Spirit—free.

For a person to be born again he or she must meet the requirements of the scriptures as detailed by Paul in the passage below.

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died** for **our sins** according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

- Notice Paul is going to tell us the gospel by which we are saved. Paul delivered unto them that which he also believed—the gospel.
- All these things Paul shared in this passage made it clear that they were according to the scriptures. They weren't His own thoughts. Remember that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

1. Christ

- a) This is a reference to the deity of Jesus, the anointed Messiah.

I wrote a book "**Jesus, God or Man:** that deals with establishing the deity of Jesus.

- b) **For one to be born again, they must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.** In other words, that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16). He was not just a man or a good man. He was and is God.
 - i) John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?
 - ii) John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

2. Died and buried

- a) Some people do not believe that Jesus died. They believe that he fainted or just passed out. That is not what the scripture teaches (1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Romans 10:9; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30;
 - i) You must reject that foolishness.

- b) Matter of fact, we do not **embalm** people that have fainted or in a comma. Jesus' body was embalmed because He was dead, and they were trying to preserve it from a decade and decomposition using spices.
 - i) John 19:39-40 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.
 - ii) Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.
 - iii) The mixture of myrrh, aloes, and the spices was for embalming, and fragrance purposes.
 - I believe the reason they did not embalm His body right away was that it was sabbath.
- **What do we do with a dead body? We bury it. Jesus was buried because He was dead.**
- c) Jesus died a physical death. He was not murdered or killed. Jesus laid down His life for us (John 10:15-17).
- d) He gave up the spirit (Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30) and died.
 - i) Giving up the ghost or spirit (Genesis 25:8, 17) is in reference to death. Jesus died.
- e) Jesus was buried in a tomb (sepulcher or grave). People who aren't dead do not live in tombs because they are for burial.
- f) Wrapped

3. Our sins

- a) If you do not believe you have sinned, are or were a sinner you cannot be born again.
 - i) Jesus died for our sins because we all were sinners.

- ii) You must acknowledge your need for a savior to believe and profit from that salvation.
- b) Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- i) No matter how good you might be, you have sinned and have come short of the glory of God—Jesus.
- c) Note that **Jesus died for our sins—not His**.
- i) Jesus was sinless (Isaiah 53:9; Hebrews 7:26; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; and 1 John 3:5)
 - ii) If Jesus was a sinner, then you cannot be born again. You must believe that Jesus was sinless to be born again.
- d) Most people that do not believe they have sinned, are or were sinners also do not believe in the existence of hell let alone going there if they reject Jesus.
- i) They refuse to believe that they have done anything wrong which warrants the need for a savior and possibility for hell should they reject the savior.

4. Rose again/ Resurrection

Matthew 28:5-9 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

- a) Jesus died and rose again. He could not have risen again if he had not died in the first place.
 - i) He rose again bodily and physically—not spiritually like some religions have chosen to teach.
 - ii) Notice that our main passage says that 1 Corinthians 15:5-6 “And that he was seen

of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

iii) They could see Him because He bodily rose. A spirit cannot be seen. If Jesus was a phony, He would have said that He will rise from the dead spiritually, hence leaving no evidence for his resurrection, but He said and rose again physically.

➤ **No one can be born again unless they believe that Jesus rose again from the dead. This is the top crucial aspect of the gospel.**

b) Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** For with the heart man **believeth unto righteousness;** and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (emphasis mine)

i) These verses say that we must believe with the heart. Both head knowledge and acknowledgment are not believing. After we have believed with the heart, then are we to confess. Just confession will not save a person. This has to be a heart commitment and belief.

ii) We need to profess or confess what we possess.

iii) If we have truly believed, we shall confess—soon or later. It is impossible for one to believe on the Lord Jesus and never say so. True faith will be seen in confession and action—behavior.

iv) We do not become righteous by performance but by believing. We can't work our way into righteousness with God.

v) Romans 10:9-10. Two main things we need to believe to be saved.

□ Who He is and was

- Lord Jesus—Lord (Divinity)
- Jesus (Humanity).

Note: **Every cult gets the person of Jesus wrong.**

□ What He did.

- Died and rose from the dead.

- Believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead.
- c) The Gospel is incomplete without the four parts. Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again.
- i) We have to believe all the aspects of the Gospel to be born again. We can't believe one and reject another. For instance, if you don't believe that Jesus raised from the dead, you can't be saved even though you believe He died on the cross.

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