'BORN AGAIN'

What does it mean

?

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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world, through Him, might be saved. John 3 v 16-17.

The Lord is not...willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3 v 9.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by The Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1 v 23.

There is a void in the life of every individual that can *only* be filled by The Lord Jesus Christ. People are searching - often in all the wrong places. They are running to and fro, building their own little empires - accumulating riches and material possessions, yet they are never satisfied, they always need more. They have an unexplainable emptiness. When you trust Jesus as your Saviour – He fills that void, He satisfies that emptiness. He gives you that calm, satisfying, peace of mind that the world cannot give.

He gives real meaning and purpose to life.

O, Taste and see that The Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. Psalm 34 v 8.

When we speak of being 'Born Again,' many people just don't understand what it means or how you can be 'born again.' The purpose of this leaflet is to explain as simply as possible - what it means, how important it is, and how to go about it.

When someone says I am 'Born again' it means exactly the same as saying 'I am saved' or 'I have experienced the 'new birth' or 'I have received Salvation through The Lord Jesus Christ.'

So you might say, 'Saved from what?' The answer is simple – saved from going to Hell when you die – saved from the wrath or judgment of God which is to come upon all 'unrepentant sinners and Christ-rejecting people.'

When Adam & Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden - sin, sickness and death entered the world. Since that time, sin has separated mankind from God, but God in His great love and mercy sent His Son Jesus into the world to die for our sins, that we through Faith and trust in Him, *Jesus*, we would make our peace with God, which would bring us into His everlasting Kingdom when we die.

Your Natural Birth.

When you are born from your Mother's womb - that is your '*Natural Birth*.' You are born into and become a member of your 'earthly Family.' By nature, every human being is born in sin, into a sinful world, and is automatically separated from God.

Most parents will immediately want to rectify this, so they will have their little baby dedicated to The Lord as soon after birth as possible, but Dedication or Infant Baptism does not carry through into adult life. Through the teachings of various denominations - many people have the mistaken belief that at their Baptism they became 'inheritors of the Kingdom of God' and that their passage into Heaven has been sealed from that day. We know from Bible teaching that this is not true.

The Bible says, Repent and be baptised every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Acts 2 v 38. Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Luke 13 v 3.

Obviously a baby cannot repent - so Parents take the responsibility of dedicating their child to The Lord. *However*, when the child comes to the age of understanding his spiritual state before God, he or she *is then* responsible for making that all important decision of Salvation for *himself or herself*. Dedication, Infant Baptism, Confirmation, The Communion, The Confessional, The Mass or any other Ordinance *does not* make 'the adult' an inheritor of the Kingdom of God. Only *personal faith* and trust in The Lord Jesus Christ will warrant entry in Heaven and everlasting life.

Your Spiritual Birth.

So on the understanding of what personal faith means – this is where your Spiritual Birth comes in. This is what it means to be 'born again' – 'saved' – 'the new birth' – whatever you want to call it. You can only be 'born again' *when you realise that you are a sinner in need of The Saviour.* Only when you acknowledge this fact and earnestly turn to Jesus *in repentance of your sins*, genuinely desiring to lead a new life, walking in His ways and following His Commandments – *only then* are you truly saved or 'born again.'

When you repent of your sins and accept Jesus as your personal Saviour, this then, is 'your New Birth,' or 'your Spiritual Birth.' You are now 'born again' of The Spirit of God. Now you are not only a Member of your earthly Family but you have also become a Member of The Family of God. Your Name is now written in Heaven, in The Lamb's Book of Life. Revelation 21 v 27. If you are 'truly' born again, there should be evidence of that 'new life in Christ Jesus.'

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new. 2 Corithians 5 v 17.

This should not be confused with Confirmation. Thousands of young people get 'Confirmed' but they have absolutely no intention of committing their lives fully to Jesus Christ. 'Confirmation' is a tradition of the Church. To ninety per cent of young people, it is something they feel 'they must do.' We believe that for most of them, the 'Confirmation' clothes, the big celebration dinner is all they have in mind. Turning away from sin and living a new life surrendered to Jesus Christ does not come into the equation.

I write this from experience. I was steeped in tradition - Baptised and Confirmed. At that time - all Confirmation meant to me was getting a lovely white dress. As one man so rightly put it - I went into the Church - a sinner - The Bishop laid hands on my head - and I came out a 'confirmed sinner.' Truer words never were spoken. With no disrespect to The Bishop - but at that time, I was 13, I had no more notion of living a life dedicated to Jesus Christ, than I had of going to the moon.

Praise God He opened my eyes to the truth!! He brought me out of darkness into His marvellous light. Later in life, through various Ministers and Preachers I heard The True Gospel. However, it was not until the 12th May, 1981, at a Gospel Mission, led by Evangelist Noel Grant – that My Husband and I both bowed the knee- in *genuine repentance of our sins* – and accepted The Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. At a later date we were both Baptised – The John The Baptist way – by total immersion in water – signifying the putting away of the old nature and lifestyle – and rising up to a new life in Jesus Christ. Willing to live a life dedicated to Him.

Religion is taking people to Hell.
Only True Christianity, will take you to Heaven.

Important note!

Special attention should be given to 'Repentance.' So, so many people have this 'easy believism.' Some will say, 'Jesus come into my heart today' and that's it!! They think they can have Jesus in their lives without repenting of their sins, but if they don't repent - if they don't say sorry to Jesus for their sins - how can they be forgiven? This is a serious issue and one which requires urgent attention.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and did preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1 v 4.

You *must repent* and be determined to turn away from your sin. In other words you must be prepared to do a U-turn from your old lifestyle. Now you must live for Jesus and not for worldly pleasures.

Salvation doesn't mean you become perfect. None of us are perfect, nor will we be in our human body this side of time. You always try your best to be the person God wants you to be and He helps you along the way. He takes you at your pace. Salvation is not a set of rules, as you submit in obedience to God, He leads and guides you by His Holy Spirit. He does the work of making you a new creation, walking in His ways. He is a wonderful Saviour. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

The Christian life may not be easy, it is not a bed of roses as some may think. As 'a new born babe in Christ' you may stumble and fall, but like any good parent – Jesus is always there to pick you up and help you on your way again. So many people when they make a mistake – they think The Lord will never forgive them – so they go back into their old lifestyle. The Lord *always* forgives when there is *genuine humility and repentance*. So never give the devil a foothold in your life by believing the lie – that if you make a mistake....The Lord will not forgive you....He will forgive you.

Believe me – as you commit your life completely to Jesus, He will help you with every difficulty. It is a two-way process – you call out to Him – He will answer. Once you 'get to grips' and experience the power of the living Lord Jesus in your life – you will never, ever want to go back to your old lifestyle. You will have your good times and your bad times – but when Jesus becomes a reality to you - you have the assurance and peace of mind that - when you Pray and call out to Him – *you know* He hears your prayer and He will answer, *as He decides best*. He is a wonderful Saviour.

The New Birth – for all mankind.

Being 'Born Again' or 'The New Birth' is for *all* mankind. Some have the mistaken idea that being 'born again' is a Protestant thing - only for that particular set of people. This is a lie from the pit. Jesus died for *all* mankind. Colour, creed, class or culture is of *no* significance. Jesus died for the 'whosoever' believeth in Him. So never let anyone deceive you with that horrible lie. Your either accept Jesus as your Saviour and thus have eternal life in Heaven when you die – or you reject Him and go to Hell when you die. It is as simple as that – and that is the Gospel in a nutshell.

Living for The Lord Jesus Christ.

Christianity is the key to life – it is the real thing. Who wants a counterfeit when you can have a *geniune* purposeful life. Jesus, as you trust Him, supplies everything you need. The true hallmarks of a genuine Christian person is humility and holiness. As you turn your back on your worldly ways, your walk, your talk should always line up with Biblical principles. People should see Jesus reflected in all you do and say. *Even the way you dress*. If it is your desire to know Jesus as your Saviour – the following is a short Prayer for your guidance. May The Lord richly bless you.

Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge I am a sinner in need of your great Salvation. So right now I genuinely, from my heart, REPENT of all my sin, and ask you to please forgive me. You shed your own precious Blood, died and rose again that I might be saved, so from this moment I trust you as my Lord and Saviour. Help me to walk all my days in your ways and in obedience to your Word.

Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

O, Taste and see that The Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. Psalm 34 v 8