

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Does Your New Birth Happen?

I Peter 1:22-2:3

¹ Lord Jesus told a Pharisee named Nicodemus that he needed to be born again in order to see the kingdom of God ¹. Being born again implies having your past life erased and starting it all over again. How does that happen? First Peter, chapter 1, verse 22 through chapter 2, verse 3, helps us understand how this process begins. ²

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. ² ³

¹ John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

² I Peter 1:21-25.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ³ ⁴

The first thing you need to know is that . . .

I. God Supplies the Word

. . . God supplies the word and these people received it ⁵ as God's word. This is the father's role in the new birth conception. ⁶

This word is an imperishable seed. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ⁴ It lives and it endures. ⁷ Men and their

³ | Peter 2:1-3.

⁴ v23.

philosophies change, wither and die like grass ⁵ ⁸, but the word of God lasts forever! ⁹ **This is the word that was preached to you.**

¹⁰ Your faith begins to produce a developing spiritual fetus. ¹¹ Part of this development is repentance, the decision you make to change your life. ⁶ ¹² Another part of that development is your willingness to make the Good Confession, "**Jesus is Lord**" ⁷, "**the Christ, the Son of God**" ⁸. That's your pledge of allegiance to the Lord. ¹³

This word continues to enable you to mature in your salvation. **Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.** ⁹

God wants you to crave the word like a baby craves

⁵ v24-25 - For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord lasts forever". And this was the word that was preached to you.

⁶ II Corinthians 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

⁷ Romans 10:9 - if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

⁸ Matthew 16:16 - You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

⁹ 2:2.

milk! Have you ever seen newborn kittens searching frantically for mamma's nipples? They look pretty desperate! ¹⁴

God supplies the word and . . .

II. You Supply the Obedience

. . . You supply the obedience. God supplies His part, you need to respond to Him by providing yours! ¹⁵

Obedience to the gospel is important. ¹⁶ **Second Thessalonians, chapter 1, verse 8, says that God will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** ¹⁷

Obedience is not working your way to salvation! It's simply the humble response to the Lord's authority over you.

18 It is obedience to the Lord's commands. ¹⁰ ¹⁹ As a result, you come to know the Lord; ¹¹ ²⁰ you receive answered prayer and learn to live in Him; ¹² ²¹ and it's the way we learn to love God. ¹³ ²² Remember, the Lord, and what He did for you on the cross, is the source of your salvation when you obey Him. ¹⁴

Other reasons for obedience to the Lord are ²³ that the Holy Spirit is given to the obedient ¹⁵, ²⁴ obedience comes from your faith ¹⁶, ²⁵ obedience involves your thoughts ¹⁷, ²⁶ and obedience accompanies your

¹⁰ Matthew 28:20 - . . . and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

¹¹ I John 2:3 - We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

¹² I John 3:22,24 - . . . and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him . . . Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them.

¹³ I John 5:3 - This is love for God: to obey his commands.

¹⁴ Hebrews 5:9 - . . . once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

¹⁵ Acts 5:32 - We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

¹⁶ Romans 1:5 - . . . we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

¹⁷ II Corinthians 10:5 - . . . we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

confession of faith ¹⁸. ²⁷ You are to obey what you have seen and heard ¹⁹.

Verse 22 here emphasizes that the result of your obedience to the truth is purification and a sincere love for one another from the heart! ²⁸

Your obedient response to this truth is Christian baptism! It becomes the mother's womb in the new birth process. One of the initial parts of obeying the gospel is being baptized. ²⁹

First Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 1 through 5 state, **Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:**

¹⁸ II Corinthians 9:13 - . . . men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ.

¹⁹ Revelation 3:3 - Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.

that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. The biblical definition of the gospel is the story of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord. ³⁰

Romans, chapter 6, verses 3 and 4, identify Christian baptism with this gospel story. Listen, **Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** ³¹

So - in the new birth process, God supplies the word and you supply the obedience. The next part of this process is . . .

III. The Church Supplies the Relationships

The church supplies the relationships. ³² The church is the purified, born again, people getting together to encourage and build one another's faith!

³³ Verse 22. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. The church provides the people for you to love. This love is to be sincere ²⁰ and ³⁴ deep ²¹.

³⁵ It also provides for you spiritual nourishment. ³⁶ This is where you get the word preached to you ²². ³⁷ The church provides the environment where you can

²⁰ ἀνυπόκριτος = unhypocritical.

²¹ ἔκτενῶς = fervent, intent.

²² v25 - . . . the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

**get the encouragement to rid yourself of the world so
38 you can grow in your salvation ²³.**

**How are you to respond to the Bible command to be
born again? Seek the word of God and obey it. Then
involve yourself in the church where you can receive
encouragement and grow!**

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

²³ 2:1-2 - Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation . . .