

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT
BEING
“BORN-AGAIN”

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CONTENTS:

Pg.

INTROUDUCTION: "STRAIGHT TALK"

WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO BE "BORN-AGAIN"

BELIEVE

CONFESS

REPENT

ASK, SEEK, AND RECEIVE

FORGIVENESS

THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE (WATER)

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE

EXAMPLE PRAYER

OUR NEWE LIFE

WHAT, THEN, DO WE BELIEVE?

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

JESUS' TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

IN CONCLUSION

DECISION PAGE

ORDER FORM

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT BEING BORN-AGAIN

Questions & Answers From the Bible

I have asked several times, in groups I've taught, what it means to be Born-Again. While many had been told that they needed to ask Jesus into their heart they did not have a complete understanding of **why they needed to ask Him in or what changes were to be wrought in their lives as a result.**

May you be blessed with a new and special understanding of our Lord and Savior as you read these pages.

Being born-again is not accomplished by a series of steps or even a method. It is an experience, the reaching out spiritually to meet the God of Heaven through Jesus Christ, His Son, re-establishing the relationship that was severed by the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Once we reach an understanding of what God's Word says about being born-again we are faced with a choice. Will we accept His precious truth and make Him the Lord and Master of our life? Will we reject Him and keep the god of this world, Lucifer (Satan) as Master of our life? **Our eternal future depends of the choice we make. There are only two roads from which to choose.**

Is It Necessary To Be Born-Again?

Jesus says unless we are Born Again we cannot enter into God's kingdom.

John 3:5-7

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

Mark 8:36

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

What Is Our Condition Before Being Born-Again?

From the time of Adams fall into sin all of his descendants have been born with that seed of evil abiding in them instead of the seed of holiness. Because of that resident sinful nature man needs to be redeemed and returned to holiness.

Rom 3:23

23 For **all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

Rom 5:12, 10-11

12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

10 For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,** much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life.**

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God **through our Lord Jesus Christ,** by whom **we have now received the atonement.**

How Does The Father In Heaven Regard Us Before We Are Born-again?

God desires reconciliation of His Created to Himself.

Rom 5:8-10

8 But **God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

1 Tim 2:1-5

1 **I exhort** therefore, **that**, first of all, **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;**

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For **this is good and acceptable in the sight of God** our Saviour;

4 **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

5 For **there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

Luke 19:10

10 For the **Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

I Jn 4:9-10

9 **In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**

10 **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Jer 29:11

11 For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

Jesus explains the necessity of being Born-Again in John 3:1-10:

John 3:1-10

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 **Jesus answered and said** unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water (and) of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Nicodemus was a religious leader in Israel. He was studied in the law, of proper descent and training, yet he had no concept of being born again of the spirit. Jesus explained to him that this new Birth Experience was not physical but was one that would happen on the inside of him, within his spirit. He told him that he had to be born-again or he could not look forward to seeing the kingdom of God at the end of his earthly life.

Too often we think of being a Christian only in the realms of obeying the physical & spiritual laws of the Bible. We think of being a Christian almost like it's a

job, trying to work our way to heaven. Instead, ***it is a relationship established with the Lord.*** We begin to follow His laws and precepts, not because of obligation, but because we desire to please Him and to know Him, just as much as He desires to have us know Him and be His people. There is a deep, precious, and rewarding experience available to us, one that brings us close to God's heart, touching the soul and spirit and bringing strength and healing into our lives.

There is only one method by which we can attain to this relationship to God. It is by following His plan of salvation: being Born Again.

In order to understand the importance God places upon being born-again we need to know what a tremendous gift He has given to attain it for us. He sent us His Only Begotten Son.

John 3:16-17

16 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.**

17 For **God sent not his Son** into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.**

Mankind has a desperate need to know God in a solid relationship as Jesus describes in Mt. 7:21-23. (See verse below)

As we saw in the story of Nicodemus, this knowing God is a knowing that comes through the Spiritual Re-Birth. Not everyone, even those who have performed great wonders in Jesus' name, will inherit everlasting life. Only those ***who Know Him*** and ***who Do His Will*** will inherit, those who obey his commandments.

Jesus paid a great price for our salvation when He died on the cross. He became the Key for us to enter Heaven's Door. We will all stand before Him to face what we have done in this life, both the saints and the unsaved, when the time of resurrection comes. Unless we have been born-again we will not be able to enter into Heaven's gates. Unless we know Him we will be told to Depart from Him.

Matt 7:21-23

21 **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.

22 **Many will say** to me in that day, Lord, Lord, **have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

23 And **then will I profess unto them, I never *knew* you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

Rom 14:10-12

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall **all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

11 For it is written, **As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

John 10:7-9

7 **Then said Jesus** unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door** of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 **I am the door:** by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

The way to salvation is simple. We must accept what the Word of God says about Jesus, believe it, and seek Him. Following is an explanation of how to get to know the Lord and to receive salvation, step by step. This is not meant to be a method or scheme. It is an explanation of what must take place for God to change our lives and bring us to victory over this world and over our sin.

1.) BELIEVE

To be born again you must believe with your heart that Jesus Christ truly came to save you. The heart, in the Bible, refers to the very core of your being; your heart, soul, and spirit. You cannot just rely on your feelings which tend to be erratic and undependable. *Only a heart that has been renewed by the Spirit of God can believe in Him in spite of the surrounding circumstances.* The most wonderful fact of all is that *anyone* who seeks Him can have this renewal. He came that ALL might be saved. He calls, draws and seeks mankind. It is up to us to respond. It is a decision made individually. Our future relationship with God depends upon our choice.

Rom 10:9-10

9 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.**
10 For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;** and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Acts 4:12

12 **Neither is there salvation in any other:** for there is **none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

John 5:24

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth** on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

2.) CONFESS

Confession is twofold.

The **FIRST** confession comes at the time we learn to believe in Jesus Christ. We make our verbal agreement, through prayer, covenanting with the Father that we do, truly, believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

The **SECOND** confession is made in our day to day walk. We are to acknowledge Him in all that we do and all that we say. Our daily confession is every word that comes forth from our mouth. Is it of God? Does it express His views, even if we must differ from the world around us?

Does our conversation in our normal everyday world acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior? *If we hide Him and do not admit His presence in our lives we are denying Him.* (Matt 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.)

Do those around us know by our righteous conversation that He is the center of our lives?

When we speak forth from our heart, is it a heart filled with love and belief in Christ Jesus, or is it a reflection of the world around us with it's bitterness, jealousy, and hatreds?

Matt 12:34-37 (Jesus speaking).....for **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

35 **A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:** and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

37 **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

Matt 5:37

37 But **let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**

Matt 10:32-33

32 **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.**

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Luke 12:8

8 Also I say unto you, **Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:**

I Jn 4:15

15 **Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.**

Rom 10:10

10 For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Rom 10:9-10

9 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.**

II Jn 1:7

7 For many **deceivers** are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

3.) REPENT

What does Repent mean? It means to turn from our sins, to repudiate them, to hate them as God hates them, to become ashamed of them.

God commands us to hate sin even as He hates it. Note: [We must always remember that this is the hating of the sin, not the person who sins.]

Rom 12:9

9 Let love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil;** cleave to that which is good.

1 Pet 3:10-11

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 **Let him eschew evil**, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Ps 45:7

7 **Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows.

We must come to the point where sin creates Godly sorrow in us, sorrow over our sins and wrong-doings. As we learn to love God and grow in Him He will reveal to us what sin there is in our lives. Jesus Christ Himself is our Example as we read of His life. The Word tells us, **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.** (I Pet. 4:13) and also, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.** (I Cor. 10:13)

These verses are not an excuse to be lazy and expect God to give us a free ride to Heaven. They are an encouragement to seek Him for strength when we are under testings and temptations, that we will grow in strength in Him. This flesh will fail if we try to do it on our own. It takes discipline on our part. When we choose to obey His laws and live righteously, and seek Him for our strength, through prayers, *then* He can bless our efforts.

2 Cor 7:9-10

9 Now **I rejoice**, not that ye were made sorry, but **that ye sorrowed to repentance**: for ye were made sorry **after a godly manner**, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of**: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

When we repent of our sins, with a sincere heart, the Lord erases them from our account. They are removed from us as far as the East is from the West.

Ps 103:12

12 **As far as the east is from the west**, so far hath **he removed our transgressions from us.**

Ezek 18:20-22

20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

21 **But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.**

22 **All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.**

I Jn 1:9

9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Eph 1:5-7

5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children** by **Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Many misunderstand this verse, but, **the predestination referred to here is inclusive of all WHO ACCEPT HIM.** God wants to adopt us into His family. He has a predestined course for all those who choose to follow Him. (Jer 29:11-13 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected end.**)

He sent His Son that ALL could have the opportunity to be saved. It is a **choice each person must make for themselves.** No one can buy you into this adoption nor can they work out your righteousness for you. (Ps 49:7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:)

Not even you yourself, can earn it. Jesus already paid the price for our re-birth when He died on the cross in our place. It is His gift to us. He is our only Door.

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after that John was put in prison, **Jesus came** into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Acts 3:19-21

19 **Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;**

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Please note here that there are two steps in this verse:

1.) **Repent**, or, turn from sins in sorrow that you have committed.

2.) THEN you will **be Converted**. Only then can God begin His work in you, causing you to have the strength to cease from sin. Then you are ready for His refreshing.

Define Refreshing: To enliven with the Spirit of God again.

When we were first created we were filled with, and surrounded with, God's glory and Spirit. We were actually created in the image of God, in pureness and holiness and able to walk in His Presence. (Gen. 1:27 **So God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.) and (Gen. 2:19 And out of the ground **the LORD God** formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and **brought them unto Adam** to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.) Note here how Adam literally walked with God as he named the animals.

When Adam and Eve fell, mankind's purity, God-likeness and ability to walk in God's Presence were lost. It is through the process of being born-again that we will be able to return to a right relationship with the Father God. We are refreshed and made Anew again by His Spirit. He comes to us, enters His temple, which is our body, and dwells there, refreshing, enlivening, and purifying us again. His glory, once again, fills our temple.

(2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**)

When a man sincerely repents God will remove all of that man's sins and begin to heal and restore him.

What a wonderful Lord. He does not say I will just remove some sin....He says *sins* including ALL. He does not say, I will not enter this temple.... it has slipped too far.... it has been damaged too much.... it is not fit for my Presence... Instead, He says, Whosoever will come..... (John 3:16 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.**)

Rev 3:19-21

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Acts 17:30

30 And the times of this ignorance **God** winked at; but **now commandeth all men every where to repent:**

No longer can we take God for granted and go our willful ways. Once we have come to the knowledge of the Truth, once we know the way to find Him, we have a choice. Will we respond to Him and His call or will we turn our backs and walk away, forfeiting His salvation?

Isa 55:6-8

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

4.) ASK, SEEK, AND RECEIVE:

To seek God is to earnestly call out to Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and spirit. We need to seek Him in prayer, rending our heart, yielding all to Him, desiring to know Him in a true *relationship* and not just with head knowledge.

Matt 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt 5:6

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Matt 7:7-8

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Notice that with each one of these verses there is a special promise that, He will be found of all who seek Him.

Ps 14:1-2

1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

When we stumble into sin and fall from grace God says:

Joel 2:12-13

12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, **turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:**
13 **And rend your heart,** and not your garments, **and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.**

Notice here that He still calls Himself our God. Even though we have fallen He is telling us to return so we won't lose Him. *He wants us to return and seek Him* in Godly sorrow and repentance for our sins. Look at the verse we studied in the last section on repentance: (2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.)

Isa 55:6-8

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to **our God,** for he **will abundantly pardon.**

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9

Deut 4:29

29 But if from thence thou shalt **seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**

Prov 8:17

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Prov 28:5

5 Evil men understand not judgment: but **they that seek the LORD understand all things.**

Jer 29:11-13

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And **ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

5.) FORGIVENESS

God has some serious purposes in requiring us to forgive one another.

Ultimately, forgiveness frees us as well as those who have sinned against us and offended us. Unforgiveness is sin. (Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.)

As long as we hold bitterness and unforgiveness in our hearts towards others we are not loving and forgiving as we have been forgiven of God. As the adopted offspring of God and joint-heirs with Christ we need to be expressions of His forgiveness and love to all people. One of Jesus' last sentences before He died on the cross was, Father, forgive them. They know not what they do. (See Luke 23:34) He said this concerning those who were crucifying Him.

The Father in Heaven did not say, This one has sinned so bad that I won't forgive him. He said, Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be washed white as snow. (Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.)

Christ died that ALL Might be saved, even those we might consider unlovable, unreachable. We are to have the same mind towards others that He has. (1 Cor 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**) His mind was one of forgiveness and salvation towards all who would receive Him.

Many of us have experienced untold trespasses against us. We have faced rape, murder, torments, ridicule, lies, as well as spiritual and mental abuses. Many of us have been victims. Still others of us have been the ones victimizing. God leaves the door open to any sincere repentant heart. He wants us to do the same. How else can God's love shine forth than through our forgiveness and love? How else can the ugliest of all be saved?

Mankind is born with a sin-nature. We find all kinds of derailed men and women, capable of horrible atrocities against their fellowman, depending on the environment within which each person was raised and the strength of that individual's personality.

God truly draws people to him but He also left us with a responsibility to be an example of His love and forgiveness, as Jesus was. It is only through channels of mercy that people are saved. Forgiveness is one of the major acts of mercy. It is because of God's great love and forgiveness towards us that He sent His Only Begotten Son to die on the Cross to save us. What a price! (John 3:16-17 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. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.)

1.) Forgive Or God Will Not Forgive You

Jesus, Himself, depicts this in a story as He answers Peter the apostles question, How oft shall I forgive my brother?

Matt 18:21-35

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, **Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?** till seven times?

22 **Jesus saith** unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, **Until seventy times seven.**

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then **his lord**, after that he had called him, **said unto him**, O thou wicked servant, **I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:**

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matt 6:14-15

14 For if ye **forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But **if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Why does a God who desires to free us from our sins refuse to forgive us the sin of unforgiveness? Because God is totally just. He forgave us completely. We need to forgive others completely.

We can liken unforgiveness to a weed seed. It grows if it isn't uprooted and disposed of. It begins to wreak destruction of the good seed in our lives, placing a barrier between us and God. He cannot abide with sin. He says with whatever judgment we judge others He will judge us. We need to repent, forgive, and cleanse our lives of unforgiveness just as we do any other sin He reveals to us.

This is hard to accept when a person sins horribly against us. It helps to realize that people live out what they have learned. A person who has only known harshness will produce harshness. He is unable to love or be kind until he has a chance to learn of it and experience it. A person who has been dominated will, in turn, dominate and seek to control others, often at any cost. A person who has been instilled in witchcraft will go forth within it's realms until someone shows him a better way and he is freed from it's clutches.

If we can look at people with the concept of souls that need reached it is much easier to understand their atrocities. If we can look past our own pain to theirs, it becomes understandable, even though their actions are unacceptable.

At one time, when I asked the Lord how to forgive a child molester in our area, His answer was, If you could see why evil people are the way they are you would no longer hate anyone at all but would be able to have pity on them and pray for their souls to be saved. If you could but feel the pain, frustration, emptiness and guilt they feel, you would then be able to have pity on them as I do instead of fleshly hatred. Hate the sin, not the person.

Luke 6:37

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Luke 11:4

4 And **forgive** us our sins; **for we also forgive** every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 17:3-4

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And **if he trespass against thee** seven times in a day, **and** seven times in a day **turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.**

Mark 11:25-26

25 And **when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.**

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

What does it mean to have ought against someone? It means you have a legitimate reason to be angry, offended, or hurt by what has been done to you. Notice that He says any, meaning not just some who have offended us, but everyone. Jesus left us a wonderful example in His reaction towards those that were crucifying Him.

(Luke 23:33-34) And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...** & (Matt 27:37-44) And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. 44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

What an awesome example of forgiveness! Even in the pain of dying His heart was filled with forgiveness and love, voiced to those who railed against Him.

Rom 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

2.) Forgive As God Has Forgiven You

Col 3:12-13

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 **Forbearing** one another, and **forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you,** so also do ye.

Jesus gave us an example of how to pray. Forgiveness is so important to our lives that He included it in His example prayer.

Matt 6:9-13

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And **forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Eph 4:32

32 And **be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

3.) Forgiveness Must Be From the Heart

Obviously, this one creates a dilemma. A heart hurting from a wound dealt to us does not feel love towards the person who's hurt us. There are two interesting facets to this situation.

- 1.) The love of our heart is our love for God. Do we love God enough to offer our offenders the way of salvation? In each situation we must proceed exactly as God directs so as not to place ourselves in further danger. His desire is to save a soul, not harming the innocent, the offenders, or the offended. Should the offender refuse God's offer of salvation God is the judge of their soul, not us. He will reward evil with a just due. This is not our concern. Our ONLY concern is that we place not a stumbling block in either our own souls way to salvation, or the offenders way to salvation, by harboring unforgiveness. We must release them from the debt of their sins against us. It is God's place, not ours, to keep score on the souls of man. Only He can justly judge. It would be a sad fate for us, should our offender repent sincerely and go to heaven and we go to eternal torment because we refused to forgive him.

2.) **Love becomes compassion for a lost soul only when we are so in-filled with God' Spirit that He can enable us. We cannot do it on our own, but, with God ALL things are possible. (Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.)**

There are horrible situations in life sometimes. Only God can carry us through them. If we try to bull through them on our own we will become bitter, unforgiving, and ultimately, lose our soul in the end.

Mt.18:32-35

32 Then **his lord**, after that he had called him, **said unto him**, O thou wicked servant, **I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:**

33 **Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?**

34 **And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.**

35 **So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.**

6.) THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE (WATER)

Jn. 3:5 **Jesus answered**, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water (and) of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

Mark 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;** but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Baptism is for everyone:

1 Cor 12:13

13 For by one Spirit are **we all baptized** into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Baptism is not only a commandment it is a wonderful provision the Lord has provided for us. He gives us **WATER BAPTISM SYMBOLIZING HIS CLEANSING AWAY OF ALL OUR SINS**. He removes our sins from us as far as the East is from the West. Then, *in addition, God grants us an even greater privilege*, the **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST TO GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN THE HOLINESS THAT HE GAVE US WHEN HE WASHED AWAY OUR SINS**.

The act of baptism itself does not wash away our sins. That cleansing is done within us by the Spirit of God. It is our making of a covenant with God, witnessed before Him, His minister, and often, the whole congregation. It is to be done in obedience and sincerity to Him. He responds to the sincere heart by washing away our transgressions.

Matt 3:1-6

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
2 And saying, **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**.
3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
5 **Then went out to him** Jerusalem, and **all** Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,
6 **And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins**.

Acts 10:48

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16

16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

It is important to note that those who went to John's baptismal services **confessed their sins and called upon God**. This was not a confession to man....they called upon God. He is the one whose forgiveness will wash away our pasts and make us new creatures. No man can forgive sins for us, nor does anyone have authority to sacrifice or receive sacrifices for us for forgiveness of our sins. (Heb. 10:11-13) That is Jesus' right. He paid the price to be our High Priest when He died in our place on the cross, becoming, literally, our perfect sacrifice. It is He who makes us a new creature of cleansed holiness.

Heb 10:11-12 & Heb. 7:25-27

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:
12 But **this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;** 25 Wherefore **he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him**, seeing **he ever liveth to make intercession for them**. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;
27 **Who needeth not daily**, as those high priests, **to offer up sacrifice**, first for

his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**

Another interesting facet of John's baptism is that he baptized in the river so that the whole body was immersed. These people repented of ALL their sins and were washed TOTALLY CLEAN, FORGIVEN BY GOD . The River symbolized the wholeness as they went under. It was all around them. It was like the Lord wrapping His Holy arms about them as He washed away their sins.

We are also told to be baptized in the name of Jesus. Why? Because it is Jesus Christ who paid the price for our forgiveness. It is His precious sacrifice for us that we are acknowledging. We are telling the world that we believe in Him and accept His gift, His cleansing, His forgiveness. We are acknowledging that we have sinned and need Him.

For Remission of Sins:

Mark 1:4-5, 8

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

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and **were all baptized of him in the river** of Jordan, confessing their sins.

8 **I indeed have baptized you with water:** but he [Jesus] shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 22:16

16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and **be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.** Note: See here also the confession. The confession and the baptism work together.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;** but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Specific Instructions for Baptism:

There is a specific way to baptize. The disciples were told, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** (Matt. 28:19)

7.) BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE

The Baptism that Jesus brought: The Baptism of the Holy Ghost & Fire

When Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus in the Book of John, chapter 3, He addressed the fact that we need both baptisms; of water *and* of Spirit. He says if we don't receive the Spirit we cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jesus Himself received both baptisms. When He received the baptism of the Spirit, the Spirit then sent Him to the wilderness to be confronted and tested of the Devil. **If Jesus needed the baptism of the Holy Ghost to overcome the power of the devil so do we.**

John promised us that Jesus would baptize us in the Holy Ghost and with Fire.

Jesus Himself says, He will send us the Spirit. Indeed, He tells us He had to die and leave this earth in order to send the Spirit. (John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; **It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.**) The Holy Spirit is a gift to us. (Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.)

Jn. 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water (and) of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Matt 3:11-17

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but **he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13 **Then cometh Jesus** from Galilee to Jordan unto John, **to be baptized** of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And **Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:**

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matt 4:1 Then was **Jesus led up of the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The Holy Spirit takes up His abode in us at the time of salvation. He begins to teach us, guide us, etc. But, there is a special time that comes too. It may come immediately, or it may come at a later time when we are ready. This is the time that the Holy Spirit endues us with power and authority, the time when we yield our all to Him. It is a time of spiritual revelation when the Holy Spirit reveals the reality of God to us in such fullness that we become bold enough and filled with His miraculous power enough to give forth witness of Him. We enter into our active Christian life in a new dimension as a set apart anointed part of Christ. We no longer just drink in but we begin to pour out upon others what God has poured into us.

John 14:15-17

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And **I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even **the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive**, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but **ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

Eph 5: 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;**

Matt 20:22-23

22 But **Jesus answered and said**, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

23 And he saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:**

So many times in our society people have simply not heard there is a special provision of God, the Holy Spirit, to enable us to live in holiness. There is an example of this very thing described in the Bible. Notice that Paul is speaking to Disciples.... people of God who were not fully informed.

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Cornish, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He **said** unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 **Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.**

5 **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

6 **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

The following prayer is simply an example of how to pray to receive your born-again experience. God hears sincere prayer. David prayed, in Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Know that when you pray, believing, that you will have His Presence in your life. If you have trouble believing ask His help. We see in Mark 9:24 the story of a man who came to Jesus for healing of his child The Word tells us, "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." And the child was healed. He desires to help you.

We are told to pray, In Jesus' Name and to The Father in Heaven in Matt 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. and John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name.

You can use the following prayer as an example to help you seek God and His re-birth experience.

EXAMPLE PRAYER

Father in Heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus.

I ask Lord that You would forgive me of my sins and wash their stains on my life away. I repent of them, turn from them, and choose to abstain from them with everything in me and ask for your help and strength to overcome the enemy in the mighty Name of Jesus.

Help me to forgive those who have sinned against me and offended me.

Lord, I confess that I have failed You and sinned against You.

Help me to be strong not to sin in these areas again.

Touch my understanding and grant me to know You.

I ask for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of Your ways, even as I begin to pray and seek You and read of You in Your Word.

I ask You to come into my life and fill me up with Your Spirit that I might be strong and learn not to sin against You.

Lord, I thank You for Your drawing, for this time of learning of You.

I thank You for the privilege of receiving Your salvation.

I thank You Jesus, for coming to save me, for providing a way for me to come to dwell in Your kingdom at the end of this life.

I thank you for touching me, body, soul, and spirit with Your healing.

I thank You for encouragement, for strength to face temptations and to overcome them.

I ask that You would cause my conscience to be active always, that You would do whatever it takes to keep my attention and my focus on You.

I ask it all in Jesus' name.

Amen

OUR NEW LIFE

Where are we at this point? We have believed, confessed, repented, forsaken our sins, been forgiven, forgiven others, been baptized, and sought the Holy Spirit's filling in our lives.

Following are verses from the Bible to help you in your new walk. You are embarking on a rewarding, fulfilling journey.

Who Are We In Christ?

When we received Christ and were baptized into our new Life we were washed clean, made new, and no longer guilty of the sins behind us. But we are babes in Christ. We have to grow and mature. Too many people expect new Christians to be instantaneously mature. It doesn't often work that way. We have to learn Christlikeness just like we have to learn to walk and run. People have different growth rates. People have different strengths and weaknesses in their lives with which God must work. It takes yielding to God. Everyone will stumble and fall sometimes and have to get up and start again. The best part of all is that, when we do stumble, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, who seeks to restore us and keep us on the right track. He is not willing to lose us. We must not let ourselves stay in a fallen state but must, **the instant we realize we've fallen, repent, get up, and go on with Him. That is His desire for us.**

I Jn 2:1

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And **if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

2 Cor 5:17-20

17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:** old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of **God**, who **hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and **hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Gal 6:15

15 For **in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.**

Eph 2:4-8

4 But **God**, who is rich in mercy, **for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

6 And **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

7 **That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**

Rom 8:1

1 **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

Rom 8:34

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is **Christ** that **died**, yea rather, that **is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

2 Cor 3:18

18 But **we all**, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

Phil 3:21

21 **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

I Jn 3:2

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but **we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

What then, do we believe?

Acts 17:24-31

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Jesus' Instructions Concerning the Christian Life

Matt 5:1-48

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matt 6:1-34

1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.
23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!
24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?
31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.
Matt 7:1-29
1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.
2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?
4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.
6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.
7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?
12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

JESUS' TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Matt 22:36-40

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

IN CONCLUSION

Matt 25:31-46

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matt 6:20-21

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Eccl 12:13-14

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Please fill in the blanks on this decision page whether you are a new decision, or, you are renewing your vows. We would love to hear from you, to write to you, to encourage you as you've made this decision to join the family of God. We are here to answer questions and help you with your walk.

DECISION COVENANT

On this day, _____ , _____ ,

to accept You, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Savior of my life.

I give You my life to guide me, strengthen me, and heal me of my diseases.

When I fail from Your perfect pathway I ask you to show me my sin,
that I may repent immediately of it and go on to live

righteously before You all the days of my life.

I covenant with You to follow Your commandments
with all heart, soul, mind, and strength, because I love You.

I choose to learn of You by reading Your Word
and by fellowshiping with Your people.

I choose to spend time alone with You
in prayer each day, that I might know You intimately.

Amen

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