

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO HEAVEN?
JOHN 3:1-9

Introduction

1. In our Scripture reading we see Jesus having a serious discussion with a very religious man by the name of Nicodemus, concerning the new birth.
2. It was a shock to Nicodemus to learn that religion was not enough to get him into heaven.
3. He addresses Jesus as "a teacher come from God," so we know that he would listen to what Jesus had to say.
4. Jesus knew all about Nicodemus, so He gets right to the point. He told him, "You must be born again."
5. Nicodemus asked how that was possible when he was old? Jesus pointed out the dissimilarity between the two births. **v. 6**
6. Nicodemus really thought he would go to paradise when he died. He found out that day that he wouldn't because he had not been born again.
7. Many are under that false impression today. They are religious, but have never been born again.
8. Have you been born again? Are you certain? Being born again will manifest itself in different ways in your life.
9. You can know for a certainty if you have been born again and will go to heaven when you die.

I. BEING BORN AGAIN IS A WORK OF GOD AND NOT YOURSELF. **John 1:12-13** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

A. It is not of flesh and blood.

B. It is a spiritual birth.

C. Can we really explain it? No. The second birth is a mystery and so is the first. We know that certain causes produce certain effects. **John 9:25** *He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."*

D. Salvation, being born again, is all of God and all of grace. **Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

II. WE ARE BORN BY THE WORD OF GOD. **1 Peter 1:23** *... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..*

A. If you've never heard the pure gospel message of salvation, and you've never repented of your sins, you haven't been born again, you are not saved! **Romans 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

B. It doesn't matter if you think you're going to heaven, or if your parents or someone else told you you're going to heaven. If you haven't followed God's way, you won't be there. **John 12:48** *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

C. God will only bring conviction of heart and save sinners in accordance with His Word. **Romans 10:14** *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

John 6:44 *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

D. God will save you if you heed His Word. **John 10:27** *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

III. THE RESULTS OF BEING BORN AGAIN.

A. You may be thinking, “I’ve been told I’m going to heaven. I think I’m saved. Is there any way I can know for certain?”

B. Absolutely! There are certain changes that occur in one’s life when one has been born again.

1. They have been given a new heart. **Ezekiel 36:26** *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

2. They have been given a new mind. **2 Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

3. They are a new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

4. Love for God and love for others is manifested in their lives. **1 John 4:12** *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

5. They begin to live by faith in serving Jesus. **Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

6. They have a confidence that the unsaved do not have. **1 John 3:19-21** *And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.*

C. Are you manifesting these things in your life? Remember, Jesus said, “By their fruits you shall know them.”

Conclusion:

1. I used to believe a person when they told me they have been born again. Now, I only believe it if I can see evidence of it in their life.

2. Have you honestly been born again? Is Jesus your Savior? **1 John 5:11-12** *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

3. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

4. If you haven’t been saved, you are on your way to the lake of fire. Will you turn from that way and turn to Jesus, and trust Him to save you today?