

Lesson 5

The New Birth



- **Introduction: As we observed in our last lesson, God sent His Son to save us “from our sins” that “whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Matt. 1:21; John 3:16). Through faith in Jesus we receive (1) repentance for sin, (2) forgiveness for sin, and (3) power to overcome sin. This work of grace is the beginning of a “new life,” which is called the “new birth” or “conversion.” In this lesson we will see how this new birth takes place in our lives.**



1. How many of us are naturally good? Rom. 3:10, 23 [The Further-study verses are John 8:34; Eccl. 7:20; Isa. 64:6]

Romans 3:10, 23

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

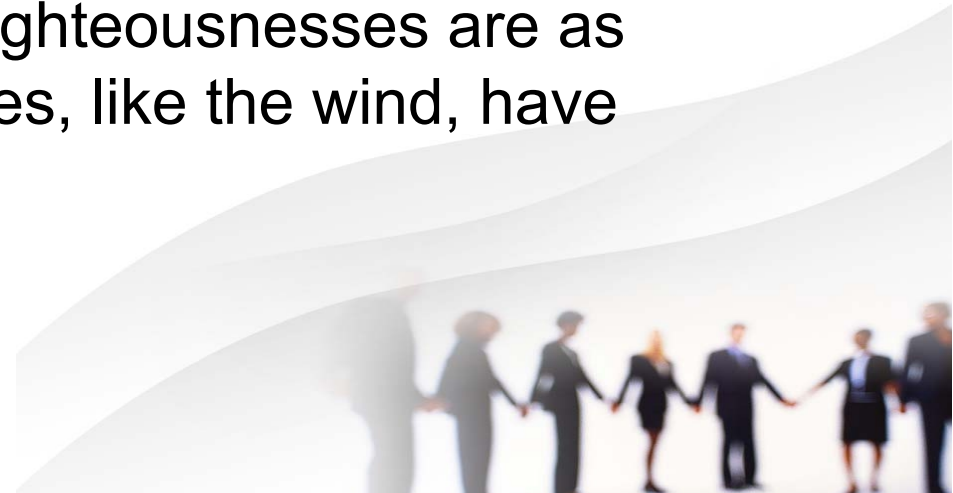
23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin

ECC. 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Isa. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Answer: There are none that are righteous, no, not one!



2. Therefore, what is “most assuredly” necessary if we are going to receive the free gift of eternal life? John 3:3, 5, 6 [Matt. 18:3]

John 3:3, 5, 6

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.

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 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Answer: We must be born of the water and of the Spirit in order to receive eternal life.



3. Can we change ourselves? Jer. 13:23 [Rom. 7:18-24]

Jer. 13:23

23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Answer: No



STEPS TO CONVERSION

4. The Bible points out three steps to conversion. What is the first step? Acts 3:19 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:38; 5:31; Rom. 2:4; Ps. 34:18]

Acts 3:19

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.

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 2:38

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.

[Answer: We must repent of our sins.]



5. Repentance means to be so sorry for our sins that we do not want to repeat them. Only God can give us that sorrow for sin, for we, by nature, love sin. What will true repentance lead us to do with our past, sinful way of life? Rom. 6:6, 16 . Num. 5:7; Eze. 33:15; Luke 19:8, 9; Rom. 8:13]

- **Rom. 6:6, 16**

- ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

- ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

- **Ezekiel 33:15**

- ¹⁵ If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ans: By God's help we will crucify the sinful habits we once cherished. True repentance also will cause us to make restitution for our wrongs (such as paying back stolen goods) where we can.



6. After repentance, what is the second step? [1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:5; 51:1-10; Lev. 5:5; 26:40-42; Mark 1:5; James 5:16; Neh. 1:6-11; Rom. 5:1]

1 John 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.


Prov. 28:13

13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Ps. 32:5

5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

[Ans: We must confess our sins to God, asking for forgiveness. After confessing our sins, we are not to keep on dwelling upon them, but to have faith that God has forgiven them. There also may be people from whom we should ask forgiveness.]



7. Thirdly, after repentance and forgiveness, how are we then to live? Rom. 6:4

Romans 6:4

- 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
- 1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

[Ans: We are to live a new life, a righteous life, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 2:1-10; 1 John 2:6; 3:3]



8. What will happen if we repent of our sins but do not replace our evil deeds with good deeds? Luke 11:24-26

Luke 11:24-26

24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

[Note: We must preoccupy the mind with good if we would not have it filled with evil. Eph. 2:1-10; 1 John 2:6; 3:3]

Answer: If we don't replace our evil deeds with good deeds the Bible says, when we fall back in that same state as before the last state will be worse than the first state.



Steps to Conversion

- Repent
- Confess
- New Life or New Birth



NEW LIFE THROUGH JESUS

9. The end product of conversion is a new life of righteousness. How can we live this new life? Rom. 8:2-41 John 3:3-9; Heb. 10:16; Eze. 36:25-28; 1 Cor. 10:13; Phil. 4:13; John 8:34-36; Heb. 7:25]

Rom. 8:2-4

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 John 3:3-9

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (So Powerful)

[Note: God has power to help even the worst sinner overcome his sins.]



10. Who showed us the way to live this new life of righteousness? John 14:6 [Heb. 2:10, 11, 16-18; 1 Peter 2:21; Matt. 16:24]

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.

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Matt 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

[Note: We are not to follow man, but we are to look unto Jesus and follow in His steps because He is the author and Finisher of our faith.]



11. In demonstrating a righteous life, Jesus showed us three things we can do to enable the Holy Spirit to give us this new life. What is one thing Jesus did, and taught us to do, to live the victorious Christian life?

Luke 21:34-36 [Luke 6:12; Matt. 26:41]

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Excessive amount
Answer: Watch and Pray



12. A second thing Jesus did was to study the Bible and to resist temptation by quoting Scripture. What will regular Bible study do for us? [2 Peter 1:3, 4 Matt. 4:3, 4, 7, 10; Ps. 119:11; John 6:53-57, 63; John 17:17]

2 Peter 1:3, 4

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- **Matt 4:3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. **4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

[Note: When we study the Bible daily, the Holy Spirit fills us with holy thoughts and gives us strength to resist temptation. When Jesus was tempted, He quoted Scripture that He had memorized. If we will fill our minds with texts of the Bible and Christian songs, our minds will not be so easily affected by sin.

Then, when we are tempted, if we will quote Scripture and pray for strength, we will obtain victory.]



13. Thirdly, after receiving spiritual strength through prayer and Bible study, Jesus mentally and consciously resisted Satan and his temptations, and chose to do right (see Isa. 7:14, 15 and Luke 4:8). What should we do when tempted? James 4:7, 8 [Eph. 6:12, 13]

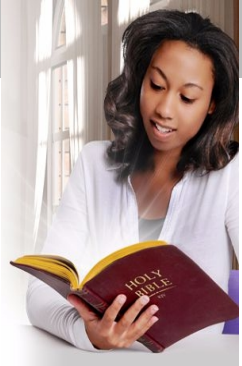
Isaiah 7:14, 15 -

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Luke 4:8 - And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

James 4:7, 8 -

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.





WHAT CAN MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN?

Sin starts out sweet to us.
Then it becomes a cancer

**Sin separates
from God.**

14. These three things—Prayer, Bible study, and exercising our will in refusing to sin and choosing to do good with the spiritual strength we have thus received—are the secrets for victorious Christian living. We must combine divine power with human effort. But we must do this every day, even moment by moment! How can we have a growing Christian experience? Col. 2:6 [Luke 9:23; 1 Cor. 15:31; 1 Thess. 5:17; Rev. 2:4]

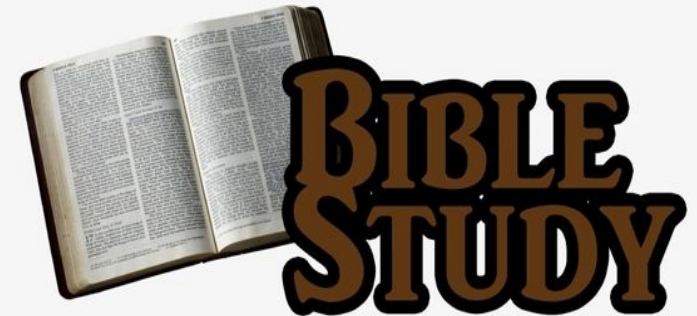
Col. 2:6

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Luke 9:23

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Answer: Submit to God, deny self, and follow in His footsteps.



15. When we have been truly born again, what will happen to us?

2 Cor. 5:17 [Phil. 1:6]

2 Cor. 5:17

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

Phil. 1:6

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Note: It is the goodness of God that leadeth men to repentance. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.



A New Life Through Jesus

- These three things—
- Prayer
- Bible study,
- Exercising our will in refusing to sin and choosing to do good with the spiritual strength we have thus received—are the secrets for victorious Christian living.



Commitment: Is it your desire to be born again into a spiritual life of righteousness, with Jesus as your example? Will you spend time with Jesus every day in prayer and Bible study, and with the strength you thus receive from God choose to resist sin and to follow the Lord Jesus Christ?

