

How can one be a born again Christian?

From the very beginning, Jesus taught that a Christian must be born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5-6 reads:

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

This combination of water and the Spirit continued when Peter preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2. In Acts 2:38, Luke recorded Peter's words:

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The key to understanding the new birth is to understand how baptism and the Holy Spirit go together.

In Rom 6:4, Paul teaches that we are baptized into the death of Christ and raised to walk in a new life:

4 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."

Thus, we are born again through baptism to a new spiritual life without sin.

In 1 Cor 12:13, we find the Spirit and baptism together in the new birth:

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

In Gal 3:27, we are baptized into Christ: "27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." If we are in Christ, we are a new creature, according to 2 Cor 5:17: "17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Paul concludes the matter when writing to Titus in Titus 3:5-8:

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

In conclusion, without baptism there is no new birth, you cannot be in Christ or be in the church, you cannot receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and you cannot have the hope of eternal life.

If you have not been baptized by the baptism described in the New Testament, you must hurry and do so. Please seek out the church of Christ in your community, and they will assist you in obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Be admonished as the apostle Paul was admonished in Acts 22:16:

"16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."