

**THE BIBLE & PRAYER POWER HOUR**  
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**OUR CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION: LIFE! THE EXCELLENT (NOT COMMONLY RECOGNIZED) POTENTIAL OF THE NEW BIRTH**

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**John 3:5 (NIV)** Jesus: "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." **9** "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. **10** "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

When Jesus gave this great and dire command to Nicodemus that we **must** be born again, He was pretty hard on Nic. But, how about us? **What do we understand about it?**

To start with, the more accurate Bible versions call the experience of John 3 "**born from above**" or "**born of God**" which better helps us understand this is an **ACT OF GOD**. While we must quit the ways of the world and make Jesus LORD of our lives, there's more to the new birth: **He wants us... to want Him... to TRANSFORM us!**

Consider our initial – flesh – births here. We entered this fallen world with a predisposition for certain diseases, sinful behaviors, and characteristics – in other words, baggage – from our two parents. But that's not all! Our two parents were, **themselves**, also made up of these things from **their** two parents, so there are four (pictured here are my mother and her mother who, along with Daddy and all my other grandparents, were kind enough to provide me life and all its accouterments); and going on, times two parents for each of my grandparents equals eight, then 16, 32, 64, 128... and pretty soon we see we're comprised of a boatload of stuff which includes baggage from:



- 1) THOUSANDS of our ancestors;**
- 2) Original sin** (the origin of our sinful flesh);
- 3) Cultures of poverty, racism, ignorance** or whatever biases we're born into;
- 4) Early childhood upbringing;**
- 5) Generational curses;**
- 6) Familiar spirits;** and,
- 7) God knows what else (that's all I could think of)**

It's a wonder we can even get up in the morning under all that weight! Is it any surprise that we **MUST** be born **AGAIN? Born OF GOD (this second time)???** And, **that we can?? Sign me up!!**



*(Note: My parents were creative; so am I. That's some good stuff. They also taught me some good stuff and I myself learned some good stuff along the way, too. But the bad – inherent in the heritage and the world – must go. It **can** go in the new birth process! Knowledge and realization show us how.)*

**UNTIL WE REALIZE THE ACTUALITY AND FACTUALITY OF BEING BORN OF GOD,  
WE CANNOT FULLY ENGAGE THE PROMISES GOD HAS GIVEN US.**

(In other words, you can be given a car, its keys, insurance, and gas to get you across the country, but if you don't know what a car is and how to operate it, you're not going anywhere in it.)

**BEING BORN OF GOD IS AN ACTUAL, FACTUAL, SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCE. WE *LITERALLY*  
ARE MADE NEW. IT'S A GENUINE DO-OVER! HERE'S HOW, DIRECT FROM THE WORD OF GOD:**

**KEY POINT #1 – OUR EXECUTION IS AN ACT OF GOD**

**The old you – the person who was born of flesh like every human being – must first be crucified BY GOD, then the new you – the one BORN OF GOD – can begin.**

Romans 6:6 defines exactly what happens at the moment when your willing heart is ready to leave the old man/old woman behind and give your life to God:

**Romans 6:6-8** For we know **that our old self was crucified with him** so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Greek theologian Dr. Richard Bootz teaches this is a literal **ACT OF CRUCIFIXION of the old you by an OUTSIDE FORCE: GOD**. The old you is **EXECUTED by God** at that moment (it had already been done for you at the Cross. After all, if the old you didn't die, then there'd be two of you). Now, you don't keel over and have to be carried off in a coffin, so how do you return to life?

**KEY POINT #2 – OUR IMMEDIATE REBIRTH IS ALSO AN ACT OF GOD**

Here is our resurrection:

**Romans 8:11** And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will **also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.**

Hidden-in-broad daylight in this verse and generally glossed over is that the promise benefits our:

**MORTAL BODIES.**

This is a **COMPLETE** transformation – the Holy Spirit breathing new life into our mortal bodies just as He did to the dead body of Jesus. What do we have to do? Believe and receive. It's an act of God. You don't do anything.

**Mark 9:23 (NKJV)** *Jesus said to him (the father of a boy with a mute spirit), "If you can believe, all things are possible to him **WHO BELIEVES.**"*

**KEY POINT #3 – THE INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY**

**Romans 6:9-11** *For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**(...good to continue through verse 14)*

Born from above is a new **BEGINNING**. (Don't worry – the old you with all of its glory *and* garbage is still hardwired on your brain to keep you busy sifting all the time!) 1 John 3:9 speaks of God's **SEED** in us, so even though we're transformed as into a butterfly, we're still like new babes. It's our starting point. **POTENTIAL** is now in us to become the children of God.

**John 1:12-13 (Amp)** *But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. **[They are born of God!]***

**THIS IS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THE POWER OF OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!**

New creatures in Christ Jesus must crucify – put down; control; rein in; take authority over – the flesh daily, pray, stay the course, and endure to the end. All potential is now within us TO BECOME – **TO BE** – LIKE JESUS with all of *His* accouterments!

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (Amp)** *And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*

Again, the old stuff remains on the brain, but that is all that's left of old sinful us. Memories. Here are validation Scriptures:

**Galatians 2:20 (Amp)** *I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**Galatians 5:16 (Amp)** *But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).*

**Colossians 3:1-5 (Amp)** *If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. For [as far as this world is concerned] **you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.** When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory. So kill (deaden, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).*

Other wonderful, relevant Scriptures – ones we can pray and claim in the name of Jesus: Romans 8:9-17 Children, heirs, and joint heirs with Christ!; Romans 12:2 Be transformed (a metamorphosis); Galatians 3:13-14 Christ was made a curse for us so we could receive the promise of the Spirit; 3:28-29 we are Abraham's seed; Ezekiel 16:6 while polluted in our blood, He said LIVE!; 36:26 gives us a new spirit and a new heart of flesh; and Ephesians 5:30 declares we are of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. Body, flesh, bones. Not exactly spiritual aspects of our lives, huh?!! Literal; tangible; physical.

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

**ALL SUPERNATURAL POWER IS NOW IN US – 24/7 – with all of its potential. How far do you want to believe? Receive? I pray you will think on that; that you will live, move, and have your being in the new LIFE that has been provided you by your LORD Jesus Christ. Amen.**