

# Being Born Again

Sue Rowe  
e-book



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Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. Old and New Testament complete.

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King James Version (KJV)

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This mini-book is one of a series covering some of the basics of Christianity.

**being born again** primarily hopes to provide new believers with information, and has for some time been used in printed form at Faith Centre Christian Church, cnr Vanderlin Dr & Patterson St., Malak, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia.

Other mini-books in the series are:

**Being Saved**

**Being Healed**

**Hearing God**

**Being Made A Saint**

**Being Made A Member**

**Being Made A Son Or Daughter**

**Being Made Free**

**Being Made A Witness**

**Being In Covenant**

**Being Awake To Reality**

**Being His Sheep**

**Being In The Kingdom**

# **being born again**

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**Y**ou may have heard the term ‘born again’ being used in various ways, and I trust you’ll enjoy hearing about what it really means. It was Jesus Christ who said we need to be ‘born again’.

**Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

John 3:3

**“...Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**

John 3:7

Many people want to go to heaven when they die, which is really the same as saying they want to go to be with God, and live forever with him.

The good news is that heaven is open to everyone, and the way to receive eternal life has been clearly set out. Jesus is himself the way.

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

John 14:6

**“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...”**

John 10:9

When you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour (or you could say, when you ‘receive salvation’, are ‘converted’, or are ‘saved’), what happens is that you are, at that moment, born again. This is a definite spiritual event; it is real. Your spirit is made completely new. The real *you*, the inner person, is birthed into the kingdom of God, and you start a new life with all your past sin washed away. You have a clean slate.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

## “AM I GOOD ENOUGH?”

**T**his new birth does not happen because of any good deeds on our part. There is no way we can buy or earn salvation, or secure ourselves a place in heaven. God is holy. In an unsaved state, we are not.

**But we are all like an unclean thing,  
And all our righteousnesses are like  
filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our  
iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us  
away.**

Isaiah 64:6

**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.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

We are saved, not through our own works, but through believing in our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and accepting what he has done to save us. The simple faith comes first. Then, once we are born again, our faith should naturally produce a lifestyle which shows what we believe.

## WHY DO WE NEED SAVING?

**N**o one has any trouble seeing that there is evil in the world. What hasn't been clear is where it originated, and to understand that we have to go back to the Bible account of what occurred with Adam.

Adam was presented with a choice: He could obey an instruction given by God, whom he knew personally and who walked with him in Eden as a friend, or he could join Eve in listening to Satan. Eve was deceived, but Adam could still have refused to disobey God.

Adam chose to disregard God's command, and his choice has affected all mankind since, from generation to generation.

We can hardly imagine our world without sin and its consequences, but that was all Adam and Eve had known, until that moment. In effect Adam bowed down to Satan, making Satan 'the god of this world'.

**But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV

Everything changed once sin entered the world. Suddenly mankind was cut off from God, his Creator, his friend. Satan was and is God's enemy, and stole mankind by getting those first people to obey him, which instantly corrupted them, *and* all their descendants through time. The Bible tells us that every human being has sinned, and is in need of a Saviour.

**...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...**

Romans 3:23

## OUR FREE WILL IS PRECIOUS

**G**od would not redeem the situation by violating mankind's will. He gave us free will and would not take it away,

even though Adam's choice had such disastrous consequences. But that same free will is the key to moving you and I back into fellowship with God, today. It is our choice.

That we can choose eternal life - that salvation is offered - is made possible by what Jesus did. There was a cost involved, payment for sin, and the price was the highest possible. It was so high that Satan thought it could not be met.

None of us could have paid the price for sin. We could not buy ourselves back, out from under Satan's dominion, and restore our relationship with God, because the person to pay had to be as Adam was when he made that wrong choice; sinless. That is why Jesus came.

Jesus did not come into existence when he was born as a baby in Bethlehem. That was when he, the eternal Son of God, left heaven and came to earth to save us.

It is Jesus we choose to trust for our salvation.

## GOD BOUGHT BACK OUR FREEDOM

**G**od planned the coming of Jesus. The way he came, and the timing, was all part of God's amazing plan of redemption. He sent his Son from heaven to come here as a baby, born a human being like you and I, so that he could pay for our sin.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

John 3:16-17

Jesus had an earthly mother, Mary, but no human father, so he did not inherit a sin nature.

**Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS."**

Luke 1:30-31

**Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”  
And the angel answered and said to her,  
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”**

Luke 1:34-35

God's plan is perfect. Jesus could have chosen to sin - we can read in the Bible where Satan personally tempted him - but he resisted and never did sin. So he was fully 'qualified' to die in our place, paying for all mankind's sin.

Jesus came and lived and died as a sinless human being, completely frustrating and over-turning Satan's plan to hold all mankind in slavery to sin, cut off from God. Having demonstrated who the Father is, and what he is like, Jesus then allowed himself to be arrested, wrongfully tried, cruelly beaten and condemned, and finally, to be crucified - again, all according to plan, and fulfilling prophecy.

**“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**

John 10:17-18

When Jesus breathed his last breath on the cross at Calvary and died, Satan and his followers thought they had killed mankind’s one hope of salvation, but they could not have been more wrong.

**But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

## JESUS: ALIVE AGAIN - FOREVER

**S**ince Jesus was sinless, even in physical death Satan had no power over him. Once the price for our sin - for all mankind's sin for all ages - had been paid by the shedding of Jesus' innocent blood, he died. But there was quite a lot more to do yet, to complete the plan.

**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient...**

1 Peter 3:18-20a

**...with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

Hebrews 9:12

**Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

Colossians 2:15

Much was achieved and fulfilled in the time between Jesus' death and his final return to the Father, all of which was very bad news for Satan. Suffice it to say here that Jesus rose from the dead, having paid the price for our sin, his authority clearly seen.

**...Jesus Christ, who is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**

1 Peter 3:(21)-22

Our Lord and Saviour is alive forever because death had no right to hold him, and just as his death was a reality, so is the finish of us being without God; just as his being raised from the dead was real, so is our new start as a brand new creation, when we are born again.

This is not simply a parallel or an analogy: Our new birth is a reality, bought and paid for long ago. Jesus is alive, right now, today, and because he is alive for evermore, so will every born again believer live forever with him.

**And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.**

1 John 2:25 KJV

## MADE CLEAN

**W**hen a person hears about what he has done, and accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour, God causes a miracle to happen on the inside of that person: The new birth. Since Jesus has paid for our sin it can be washed away, and that is what happens. In fact, God says he forgets our sin ever existed.

**I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.**

Isaiah 43:25

Once born again, we stay free by confessing any sin directly to our faithful, forgiving God.

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

1 John 1:9

## MADE NEW, WITH GOD INSIDE

**W**e receive a new spirit when we are born again; a new 'heart', just as God promised through prophecy long ago. This enables us to start living our new life.

**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...**

Ezekiel 36:26

Our new birth is the beginning of an ongoing miracle, because once we are made new on the inside, God himself comes to live in us, in the person of the Holy Spirit, never to leave.

**...As God has said: "I will dwell in them  
And walk among them. I will be their  
God, And they shall be My people."**

2 Corinthians 6:16b

**...For He Himself has said, "I will never  
leave you nor forsake you."**

Hebrews 13:5b

God's family is made up of born again folk wherever they are in the world: All the men, women, and children who have believed the gospel - the good news of salvation - and have asked Jesus into their hearts, and consciously surrendered their lives to him. God lives in each of us, making us part of his family, joined to one another through him.

## WHAT NOW?

**N**o-one, when first born again, can know everything there is to know: We are on a new road, with much to discover, and since Christianity is a relationship with God himself, the first thing to establish is two-way communication.

Prayer is simply talking to God, person to person, spirit to spirit, and because God comes to live in us when we are born again, we can soon learn to hear him on the inside, in our spirit. It is a new way of life, where we access the supernatural - another dimension - and life is very different.

## THE MAJOR CHANGE

**T**he spirit, before we are born again, is not alive to God because sin has separated us from him. But as we have seen earlier, we receive a new heart, a new spirit, when we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. That spiritual event, whether we feel it or not, is phenomenal, and it means we change kingdoms.

**Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

Colossians 1:13 KJV

We belong to the kingdom of God once we are born again, and it is through God's Word, the Bible, with the Holy Spirit revealing that Word, that we see beyond the natural realm, and know what God wants us to know.

**For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,**

**but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

1 Corinthians 2:11-12

In the next verse we see that the Word can do the seemingly impossible, even sorting between the spirit and soul. Nothing is hidden from him.

**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Hebrews 4:12

## SUPERNATURAL, AND YET...

**W**e need to get used to the fact that we are spirit beings, supernatural beings, when we are born again, but we are all familiar with the soul area, which includes our mind, and our will and emotions. Although there may be an immediate change when we are first 'saved', the soul is a work area.

Whether we realise it or not, life programs us. So when we are born again we find ourselves needing to re-program our way of thinking to line up with what God says - all found in his Word.

Confirmation of that Word comes as a knowing or prompting on the inside (because now God lives there), in our new spirit. In time we quite naturally distinguish between our own thoughts, and God.<sup>1</sup>

When we first come to God some of our old way of thinking will need to be deleted, but God does not take us over and do that himself: It is up to us. The Bible puts it that we need to renew our minds.

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Romans 12:2

1 see our mini-book *Hearing God*

## WHO AM I?

**L**iving life as a Christian is not a matter of finding out the rules and then working at keeping them, but rather of finding our true destiny<sup>1</sup>; of discovering all the blessings and joys of living in God's kingdom, as well as learning how to recognise and deal with God's enemies, the 'powers of darkness'.

Before being born again most of us do not give much thought to what part of us is in control. (Is it the mind? Is it the body?) But now our spirit needs to come to the fore. As our minds are renewed and changed to line up with the way God thinks, the soul becomes an ally in getting the body to line up also.

We can stop bad habits, for example, by taking control. God's Word is solid ground, and every promise in it belongs to the born again believer. God's Word is his will. When we exalt *his* Word in our lives, and make it *our* will where bad habits

1 see our mini-book *Being Made Free*

are concerned, we find ourselves able to break free.  
So we have a right to say,

*“God’s Word says .....  
Therefore, I make the decision that I  
will no longer .....”*

Our natural earthly bodies, as we know, will one day die: Being born again does not change that. However, every believer can look forward to receiving a *new* body, just as Jesus did when he rose from the dead.

**For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...**

Philippians 3:20-21

That is not to say our present bodies are not important - far from it. The Word of God teaches how precious each of us is, including the body, and gives a whole new picture of what we can be as a person. It is very exciting! God teaches us, reveal his ways, matures, grows and perfects us.

As our eyes are opened to things around us we find ourselves with new ideas and inspiration, and also new responsibilities, and because we remain in this same world, we still have troubles to contend with at times. However, life is very different when you know God is with you.

**What shall we then say to these things?  
If God be for us, who can be against us?**

Romans 8:31

Eventually the day will come, of course, when we will be complete - a precious promise to all God's people.

**...being confident of this very thing, that  
He who has begun a good work in you  
will complete it until the day of Jesus  
Christ;**

Philippians 1:6

We also know that the day will come when we will go to be with God forever.

In the meantime we will have adventures with God, and just as he works with us so that we are

always going forward, achieving goals, seeing dreams come true, he will encourage us to reach out to others, to see their dreams realised, their potential reached.

## GOD HEALS

**O**n the subject of the body, not many people are completely healthy when they are born again, but God hasn't changed; he is still the Healer.

Not many people are fully whole emotionally, either, when they are born again. Most of us have been hurt one way or another, and sadly these days increasing numbers of people have sustained enough damage in life that there are mental health problems. But God is our Healer, in every area.

There is no problem or difficulty, physical, mental or emotional, that is too big (or too small) for God.<sup>1</sup> He cares about every area of our lives.

1 see our mini-book *Being Healed*

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

## GOING TO CHURCH?

Christians don't have to go to church; we are privileged that we *can* go to church, and it is not an option, but a necessity.

Church is where we can enjoy worshiping God with like-minded people; we can pray together, hear good Bible preaching and teaching, grow in our Christian lives, and make new friends.

Church is not just a Sunday exercise, not just a place to go, but a group of people to be involved with. We are all members of the 'Body of Christ' once we are saved; the huge worldwide family of God.<sup>1</sup>

1 see our mini-book *Being A Member*

**For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.**

Romans 12:4-5

We are all linked to one another, no matter how many of us there are, or where we are. We are one body, globally. On a local level, we are members of a local body of believers, a church. We need one another.

We are not here by chance. Each of us is vital and valuable in God's plan for others; others are important in God's plan and destiny for us. There is no possibility of living in our destiny in God, isolated from church life. Never forget that you are important to others.

**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

Hebrews 10:24-25

## JOIN OUR CHURCH

**H**owever you received this booklet, if you are not already involved with a church where you are being taught the Word of God and are being pastored and cared for, then – if you live within reach of Faith Centre Christian Church - we invite you to be a part of our church community. Why not let us continue to care for you, and do all we can to help you grow in your Christian life?

*For those outside of our area, interstate, or overseas, we strongly urge you to find and settle in a good church near you as soon as possible.*

## JOIN A CONNECT GROUP

**Y**ou will have questions; please ask them. Besides our 10am and 6.30pm services on Sundays, we invite you to join one of our weekly small groups, called **Connect Groups**. There are plenty of different ones to choose from in Darwin, Palmerston, and the rural areas.

At Faith Centre we consider going along to a **Connect Group** to be vital for our Christian growth, so we always try to have information about **Connect Groups** posted in church, in our weekly Newsletter, and on our web site.

In small group situations you can find things out and grow in your new life with God, whilst making new friends and having fun, knowing you have help and support near at hand.



**I** trust these pages have helped you. Assuming you are newly born again I congratulate you on your decision.

There is a short prayer following that you might like to go over, which will be something similar to the words you spoke when you asked Jesus into your heart. If you have not prayed as yet, I urge you to believe in your heart and do so now, and be sure of your eternal destiny.

Along with everyone at Faith Centre I warmly welcome you into the family of God. Please know that we will be believing with you for all God's best for your life, now and always.

### *Salvation Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, your Son, and that he died on the cross to pay for my sin, and was raised from the dead so that I can live forever.*

*I turn away from sin and from evil, and I ask you to cleanse me. I ask you, Jesus, to be my Saviour and my Lord.*

*Thank you for your love for me.*

*I accept it, and I accept the forgiveness for sin you have bought for me.*

*I thank you now for coming into my heart.*

*Thank you for saving me.*

*I am, right now, born again. Amen*

