



“You must be *born again!*” (Jn 3:7)

Think back...way back to the moment you were conceived, when you were just a little ‘squirt’ (sorry, couldn’t resist). Too far back? Ok, think back to the day you were born. Remember your trip through the birth canal? Your 1st breath? 1st heart beat? What were you thinking about? Feeling? Remember signing the birth

certificate with your ink covered foot? How did you greet your folks? Did you give the doc a fist bump of thanks? Still too far back? Ok, when did you first realize you were even alive? Your first real memory? Thought? Feeling? Word? Diaper load? Solid food meal? Crawl? Step? When did you realize you were a person with unique identity, worth and purpose?

Fact is, you have a few vague impressions but no clear memories before 2-3 years old nor understanding of the thousands of biochemical, electrical, physical, cellular, hormonal, anatomical processes that took place during your birth. The same is true spiritually. When a man crosses over from spiritual death facing an eternity separated from his gracious God/Creator to spiritual life as one who is ‘*born again*’ he does not realize the entire process the Father used nor all that takes place the moment he is born. In fact, you had as much to do with your spiritual birth as you did with your physical birth.

In Acts 9:1-31 we read the account of Paul’s (think ISIS terrorist leader) spiritual birth (Acts 7:57-8:1; 22:4-5; I Cor 15:9-10; Gal 1:13, 23). In spite of his great learning and zeal (26:24; Phil 3:4-9) Paul was spiritually blind (II Cor 3:12-18). Just like us, his world view was so twisted (Eph 4:17-20; II Cor 4:3-4) he thought he was following God but was instead actually serving satan by attacking God’s people (Acts 9:5; Matt 16:21-23). Like many self-righteous religious men, he stumbled over the cross (I Cor 1:23; I Pet 2:4-8) because he thought his own good deeds would save him (Eph 2:1-12; Phil 3:1-10) rather than the righteousness of God alone (Rom 9:30-10:13; Gal 2:16, 20).

But on his way to Damascus, Paul met the risen and reigning Jesus! In the years that ensued Paul came to know both the ordered process that God uses to bring all His children into His forever family (John 1:12-14) as well as the many things that took place the moment he was born again. ALL IN 17 presents an opportunity to reflect on your spiritual birth. Perhaps God will use these Bible truths to draw you to Himself for the first time!



THE ORDER OF SALVATION Ordo Salutis is the theological doctrine (Rom 8:28-31) that explains the logical ‘**birth order**’ our Father God used in your salvation (# 3-7 happened simultaneously). According to Acts 9 we know the exact date and place that Paul was born again. We often wrongly reason that if we can’t remember a date, place or the actual event we are less spiritual and missing out. When was Peter born again? Early years in the synagogue? When he first met Jesus (John 1:40-42)? After walking on water (Mt 14:22-31)? Upon declaring Jesus the Messiah (Mt 16:16-23)? After denying Christ (Mk 14:72)? Running into the empty tomb (Jn 20:1-9)? When Jesus served him breakfast (John 21:1-22)? Answer: We don’t know? If an orphan doesn’t know the circumstances of his birth, is he any less alive? You may not know an exact date but you should know the season of being born again and the assurance based on the truth of God’s promises in the Scriptures. If you don’t know you are married, you are not married! Let’s discover all the Father accomplished for you at the moment of your spiritual birthday regardless of when you were born again, if you have indeed repented of your sin to receive His priceless gift of Christ (Eph 2:1-12).



1. **Election**- God’s choice of who’s to be saved (II Thess 2:13; Eph 1:3-5; Acts 13:48)
2. **Creation** – God made all from nothing (Gen 1-2; John 1:1-14; Col 1:15-17)
3. **Gospel Call**- proclaiming the gospel (Rom 10:14-15; Acts 2:37; 8:35-38; 17:32-34) leading to an effectual call
4. **Regeneration**- being born again. (Jn 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 1Pet 1:3; Eph 2:4-5; Col 2:13)
5. **Conversion**- respond w/ faith & repentance (Tit 3:8; I Pet 1:23; Acts 15:3)
6. **Justification**- Being declared right with God – a legal status declaring that the claims of justice have been fully met.(Rom 3:21-24, 28; 4:5; 5:1; 8:1; Gal 2:16. Theologically this includes our Forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14; 2:13-14; Acts 3:19) as well as having Christ’s righteousness credited to us. (Rom. 5:17; 1Cor 1:30; Phil 3:9)

7. **Adoption**- included as a child and heir in God's family (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:4-9; Eph 1:4-5; John 1:12; Gal 3:26)



8. **Sanctification**- transformed toward holiness to become more like Christ... progressing toward love and obedience to God (I Thess 5:23-24; Rom 12:1-2; Col 3:10; Phil 1:6)

9. **Perseverance**- He causes me to remain in Christ... never to lose my salvation (John 3:36; 10:1-18; Phil 1:6; 1Pet 1:4-5)

10. **Death**- going to be with the Lord (I Cor 15; I Thess 4:13-18; 2Cor 5:6-8; Phil 1:21,23)

11. **Glorification**- resurrection body (I Cor 15:12-14; Rom 8:18, 29-30; Col 3:4)



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION What impresses you with what God has done in your life behind the scenes crossing you over from death to life? Why? If you have yet to receive Christ, what encourages you? Challenges you? How does the weight of these truths help you to become more **ALL IN**? How does it take

the 'gamble' or odds of losing out of your present and future? Which of these in particular encourages your heart and soul the most? Why? How does it make you feel about your Creator 'Parent' Father? What does it make you want to do with your life? What difference should it make between Sundays.

ASSIGNMENT Read through these points looking up as many verses as you can. Allow the truth of God's Word encourage your heart and bring peace to your mind. Talk through several of them with a friend or family member.

26 THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU ARE BORN AGAIN

God alone causes the things listed below to take place in the life of man who responds in faith to His offer of salvation. All these happen instantaneously upon becoming a Christian. There is nothing here that needs to be worked for, worked on, or in any way earned...simply enjoyed

to the praise of the Father! These are grace gifts from the Father to His children as they are born into the family of God. We ought to be the most highly motivated men in the world! (adapted from SonLife Ministries). Paul was so overwhelmed with all that God had done to give him eternal life that most of the following are referenced by him in his letters.



1. **Having access to God** (Heb. 4:16)
2. **Reconciled** (2 Cor. 5:17-20; Col 1:20)
3. **In Christ!** (Rm 6:11, 23; 8:1, 39; 1 Cor 1:30; 12:13; 1 Jn 5:12; Eph 2:6)
4. **Righteous/acceptable to God** (Eph 1:4; I Pt 2:5; Heb 10:14; Col 1:12)
5. **Heavenly citizenship** (Phil 3:20; Eph 2:19; Lk 10:20; Heb 12:22; Rev 21:3)
6. **In fellowship w/ Believers** (Acts 2:42; Gal 2:9; Phil 2:1-3; I Jn 5:12)
7. **Within the care of God** (Rom. 5:8-10; Col 3:15; Eph 1:19)
8. **Security (the Rock) Christ Jesus** (Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:9-15)
9. **Part in God's eternal plan** (Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:2,20; I Thes 1:4; Jn 15:16)
10. **Redeemed** (Gal: 5:1; Rom. 3:24; 8:23; Gal 2:20)
11. **In a living relationship with God** (1 Jn. 2:2; Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17)
12. **Free from the law** (Rom. 6:14-15; 7:4-6; 8:2; Col. 2:14)
13. **Brought near** (Eph. 2:12-13; James 4:8; Rom. 8:23; Heb 10:22)
14. **Delivered from the power of darkness** (Col 1:13; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph 2:1-2)
15. **Entrance into a new kingdom** (Col. 1:13; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:11)
16. **A gift from God the Father to Christ** (Jn. 17:6; 22; 18:9)
17. **Set apart to God in Christ** (Col. 2:11; Rom 4:9-12)
18. **Members of a royal and holy priesthood** (1 Pet. 2:5-9)
19. **A chosen generation, a holy nation, a peculiar people** (1 Pet. 2:9-11)
20. **His inheritance** (Eph. 1:18; Col. 3:4)
21. **The inheritance of the saints** (1 Pet. 1:4; Col. 3:23-24)
22. **Light in the Lord** (Eph. 5:8)
23. **United to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit** (1Thes 1:1; Rom 8:9; I Cor 2:12)
24. **Blessed w/ the first-fruits of the Spirit** (II Cor 1:22; Eph 1:14; Rom 8:23)
25. **Complete in Him** (Col. 2:9-10; II Pet 1:3; Phil 1:6)
26. **Possesses every spiritual blessing** (Eph. 1:3)