



In the story in John 3:3 when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, it clearly indicates that it refers to our spirit passing from death to life. The reason Jesus added in verses 5 & 6, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Then, how can a person be reborn in their spirit?

John 3:16: “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.”

Where does our belief in Christ come from?

Eph 2:8-9: “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.”

How so?

Rom 10:10: “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Why is true faith necessary?

Heb 11:6: “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Let’s ask ourselves, “How strong is my faith in Christ, and how has it affected my life spiritually in producing an ardent desire to “diligently seek Him”?”

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Repentance is defined as the acknowledgement of wrong behavior and the commitment to turn from it. Spiritually, it is to recognize we are sinners, have offended God, and truthfully desire to change our life and follow Christ through His Word.

But why do we need to repent?

Rom 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2Cor 7:10: "For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation."

Pro 28:13: "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy."

Does that mean I will never ever sin again, and is that possible?

Not at all because we are human and continue to carry our flesh nature. However, if we sin, what must we do?

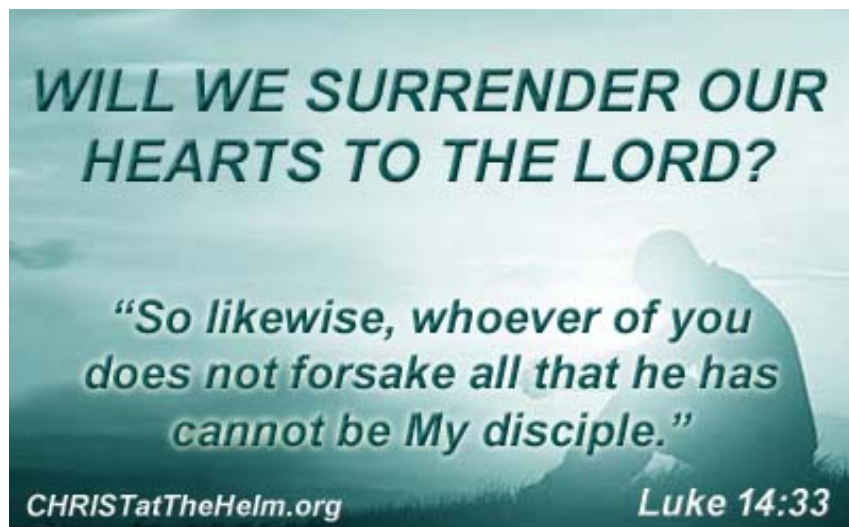
Acts 3:19: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

What can I do to avoid temptations to sin?

Eph 6:11-12: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places."

How sincere is our repentance, and are we committed to follow Christ at His Word?

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To surrender is defined as to cease resistance and submit to the relative authority. As such, Jesus left no doubt about the requirement to surrender our lives to Him. Here's what He said:

Mat 16:24: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

John 15:5: "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

How do we achieve that?

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Rom 12:2: "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." In all truth, unless we abide in Christ, in His Word, we haven't truly surrendered.

What if I don't surrender?

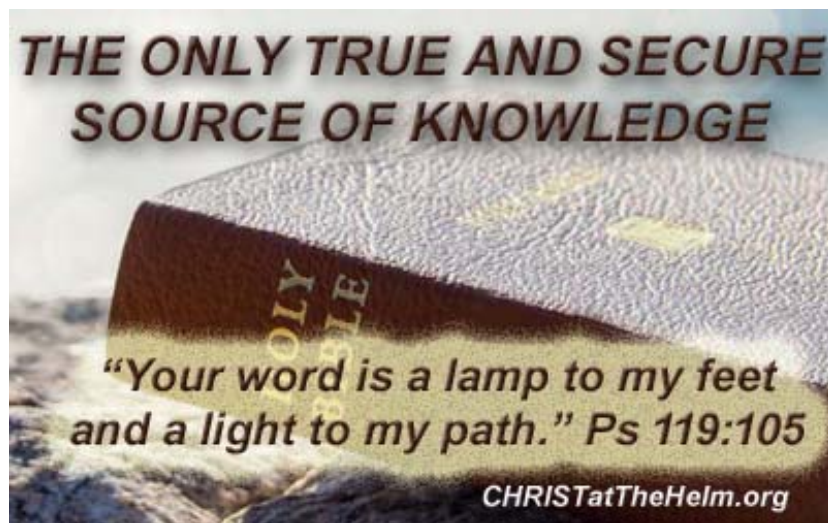
Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

What's our guarantee?

Ps 9:10: "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

Have we surrendered to the Lord?

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Why must we study the Word of God?

John 8:31-32: “Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Obviously, if we desire to know the truth about life eternal with God, it is clear that His Word is our only secure source of truth.

Why?

Heb 4:12: “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.”

How so?

Rom 15:4: “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

What should we expect from studying God’s Word?

Pro 2:1-6: “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.”

Wow!

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What is the attitude to adopt in becoming a new creation in Christ?

Rom 6:4: “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

In other words, our new life implies that we are to walk as newborns in Christ and follow Him at His Word.

How is that accomplished?

Eph 5:1-2: “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

1John 5:18: “He who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”

2Cor 6:14: “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

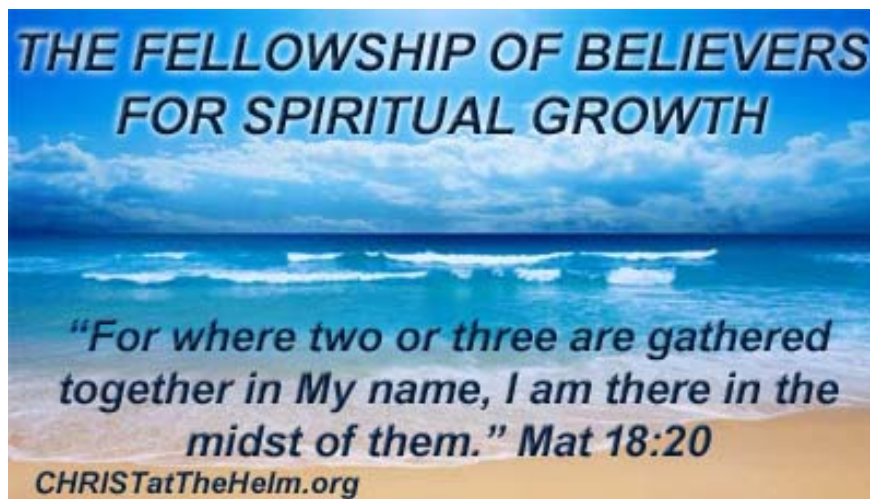
Rom 6:13: “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

What if we don't?

Mat 10:38: “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Is our new life in Christ evident to God and to the world around us?

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Is there a purpose to assemble with fellow believers? Can we really survive in our faith alone, without the help of other Christians?

Isn't it interesting that Jesus said that where even only two are assembled in His Name, He is present? That should convince us that we need other believers to grow spiritually, encourage and even challenge each other in our walk with Christ. We sure can't live like an island in our faith in Christ, the reason we are the body of Christ, whose members need each other to grow and live to honor God.

What have we learned from the early Church?

Acts 2:42: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

How did Paul exhort us on this important principle?

Heb 10:24-25: "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."

In other words, we need each other to not only grow spiritually, but as well help others do so. As Psalm 149:1 says, "Sing to the LORD a new song, *and* His praise in the assembly of saints."

How dedicated are we to be joined to and grow spiritually with other believers?

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# OUR MISSION IS TO BE WITNESSES FOR CHRIST

*“And He said to them, “Go into all  
the world and preach the gospel  
to every creature.” Mark 16:15*

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Whose mission is it to be witnesses for Christ, to be His disciples? Some people say that it is the work of pastors and evangelists. What did Jesus however say about this?

Mark 1:17: “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

If we’re to love God with all our hearts, minds souls and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves, wouldn’t the call to be His witnesses demand that we share our faith with the lost, so that they have the same opportunity we had to know Christ as Savior and Lord?

While some are called into serving the Lord full time in pastoring His flock or being evangelists to the ends of the world, we are all called to be His witnesses to the world around us.

What if the person who shared the truth of God with us and drew us to Christ had chosen to remain silent?

Paul in 2Tim 2:2 said, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” In essence, what we learn from the word of God is meant to be shared with the world.

In verse 15 Paul added: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

How committed and diligent are we to be Christ’s witnesses?

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