

“Born Again”

(A) Some Scriptural references on “Born Again”

- **John 3:3 (NIV)** - Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**."
- **John 3:7 (NIV)** - You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be **born again**.'
- **1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- **1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)** - For you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

(B) The Law of First Mention

The law of first mention says that, to understand a particular word or doctrine, we must find the first place in Scripture that word or doctrine is revealed and study that passage. The reasoning is that the Bible’s first mention of a concept is the simplest and clearest presentation; doctrines are then more fully developed on that foundation. So, to fully understand an important and complex theological concept, Bible students are advised to start with its “first mention.”

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We will use the law of first mention to carefully explain the term “Born Again”. “Born Again” is first mentioned in scriptures, in **John 3:3 (NIV)** and it states, “Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can **see the kingdom of God** unless they are **born again**."

(C) Minimum Expectation

There is a minimum expectation from someone who is born again which is “**seeing the kingdom of God**”. Therefore, we cannot conclude we are born again until we can fully proof that we see the kingdom.

-The kingdom of God is simply God's ways of doing things. To "see" the kingdom (Greek word for "see" is "**horaó**") is therefore "to perceive" "attend to" things in a manner that God will perceive and attend to them"

-Therefore, to see the kingdom of God as stated in John 3:3 is to do things in a manner that God will do them. "A person who is Born Again is one who perceives and attends to things in a manner that God will."

-The only way to be Born Again is to live by the word and we can only live by the word when we invest time in fellowship with the Father through prayer and study of the word. Also, by close communion with the Spirit of God.

(D) Requirements

-You must be "Born Again" - **John 3:7 (NIV)** - You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be **born again.**'

-In order to be "Born Again", we need to accept Jesus Christ as "Savior" and "Lord". And this is in according to

***John 3:16 (NIV)** - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

***Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)** - If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

(E) "Jesus as Savior" and "Jesus as Lord"

-It is possible to receive Jesus as "Savior" and not "Lord". However, it is impossible to have Jesus as "Lord" and not "Savior."

- To have Jesu as Savior, is simply fulfilling **John 3:3 (NIV)** - Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can **see** the kingdom of God unless they are **born again.**"

-To have Jesus as Lord is simply fulfilling **John 3:5 (NIV)** - Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can **enter** the kingdom of God unless they are **born** of water and the Spirit.(To be born of water and Spirit simply means to be born of “the word of God” and “the Spirit of God”).

-The difference between one who “sees” the kingdom and one who “enters” the kingdom is that “You can choose to perceive and attend to things the way God will “perceive and attend” to them. However, you will not let Him rule/own your life. Meaning, you still choose to function on your own terms, a lifestyle that is not surrendered to Him.

(F) Concluding Thoughts

- Born Again is an experience followed by a consistent lifestyle of fellowship with the word and the Spirit of God.
- Born Again speaks of a lifestyle of surrender.
- Born Again is inseparable from living according to the principles of the word of God.
- When someone tells you “I am born again”, the next thing to look out for is “how submitted are they to the word of God?”
- Born Again is not a title, rather, a responsibility.
- Born Again is a relationship between us and the word of God/Spirit of God.

(G) Are you Born Again?

Is a question that speaks to both “seeing” the kingdom and “entering” the kingdom. It speaks to whether or not Jesus is both “Savior” and “Lord”. It speaks to a lifestyle, a responsibility, etc.

However, this question is often asked “**in ignorance**”, “**by the ignorant**”.

Together, let’s make the difference! Amen.

Compiled by TOMS – 04/2019