

BORN AGAIN

1 Peter 1:3 “. . .the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . has caused us to be born again. . . “

It is fairly common to hear someone say they are a “born-again Christian.” Searching the web, I found the following explanations for what it means to be a “born-again” Christian:

A born-again Christian is someone who has repented of their sins and turned to Christ for their salvation, and as a result has become part of God’s family forever. All this takes place as God’s Spirit works in our lives. You see, by nature we aren’t members of God’s family, and we don’t have any right to inherit eternal life.

The phrase “Born Again Christian” applies to people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior or Redeemer. To be born again in this sense is not an actual physical rebirth, but it indicates a spiritual rebirth.

A born-again Christian is a person who has become an evangelical Christian as a result of a religious experience. You can use born-again to describe someone who has adopted a new set of beliefs or a new way of life and is very enthusiastic about it.

It is fairly obvious, “born again” has a variety of meanings among those using this phrase. Jesus used this phrase in His teaching, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” When asked how one is born again, Jesus answered, “. . . 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 . . . The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:3,5-6,8)

Jesus, in His teaching, says that being born again is the work of the Holy Spirit. He taught that the Holy Spirit creates this new life through “water” (baptism.) (John 3:5) Peter adds, “you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

Ephesians 2:8-9 says that faith in Jesus is God's gift (work). Titus 3:5 connects your baptism with the work of the Holy Spirit, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

When the Holy Spirit causes you to be born again, He works in you the forgiveness of sins, rescues you from death and the devil and gives you eternal life and salvation. This He does through the power of the Gospel and your baptism. (Small Catechism)

Prayer: Thank You, Holy Spirit for my being born again through my baptism and the power of the Gospel.

All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand Among the glorious,
Heav'nly band Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.
(LSB 601)