



# What It Means To Be Born Again

For New Christians

**By**  
**Sean Bonitto**

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# **What it Means to Be Born Again**

Praise the Lord! My friend, if you have truly repented (meaning to turn away from) of your sins, and received the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart by faith alone to be your personal Lord and Saviour, and have trusted Him as the only one that paid the penalty of your sins, by His death and shed blood on the cross to save your soul from an eternity in hell, and to give you eternal life in heaven, then my brother or my sister, welcome to the family of God.

The Bible says, "...I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10). The angels in heaven are rejoicing with you right now, as well as other born again Christians who have also repented of their sins, and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. This has been, and will always be, the greatest and most important decision you will ever make in your entire life.

The Bible says in Mark 8:36, "For what

shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

My brother or sister, you have seen that your soul is the most important possession that you have, and where one will spend eternity either in heaven or hell depends whether or not one repents of their sin and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, or rejects Him and His love gift of salvation through His finished work on the cross (John 3:16-21,36).

Thank God you have settled the old account of your sin that would have condemned you to hell on the day of Judgment, because the account that would have been held against you would have found you guilty of breaking and disobeying God's law, such as lying (Exodus 3:16; Revelation 21:8), stealing (Exodus 20:15; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), disobeying your parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3), idolatry (Exodus 20:1-5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), just to name a few.

Thanks be to God, that the Lord Jesus Christ took our place on the cross, and died for our sins that we can be saved, and our sins can be forgiven, only by repentance and faith in Him alone (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Acts 20:21; Romans 5:8).

Now that you have escaped the wrath of God by receiving His salvation, forgiveness, love, mercy and grace only through the Lord Jesus Christ, and are on your way to heaven, you may be asking yourself, "*What does it mean to be born again?*"(John 3:3). If you are not asking this question you need to understand what it means to be a true Christian according to the Bible. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-18), He will assist you and help you not only to understand it (John 14:26), but to live it (Romans 8:1-16).

The Bible says, "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This verse of scripture means that you have now accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, have turned from your sins, and that you no longer walk and live in your old lifestyle of sin anymore, but now live a new life of righteousness and holiness, with the Lord Jesus and His Word having full control over your life (Matthew 4:4).

Praise the Lord! You are no longer under the horrible slavery, bondage, and shackles of sin, that would have wrecked, ruined, and destroyed your life, but are set free by the blood of the

Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 8:34-36). Therefore, being born again means, that you are born from above, and received a second birth.

The Bible says in John 1:12-13,

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name : Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

You are now born again by the Spirit of God, and you live your life according to His Word and His Ways found only in the Word of God, the Bible.

You no longer live according to the sinful lusts of your flesh, the world, or the devil, but for the Lord. This means if you were once a drug addict, you stop your drug abuse, a smoker, stop your smoking, alcoholic or just an occasional drinker, stop drinking alcohol completely, liar, stop your lying, homosexual, stop your homosexuality, an adulterer, stop your adultery (also referring to those living in a divorced and remarried condition while the first spouse is alive



(Matthew 19:9; Romans 1-3), fornicator, stop your fornication, gambler, stop your gambling, transgender, stop being transgender, idolater, stop your idol worship, a thief, stop your stealing, a racist, stop your racism, a witch, stop your witchcraft, and this small list which could easily continue gives us the clear message, that we must repent of our sin, meaning to confess and forsake it (Proverbs 28:13), and serve the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37-40).

God loves us, and because He loves us, He tells us to turn away from sin that will destroy our lives and leave us separated from Him in the lake of fire forever. His love for us is demonstrated in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh (John 1:1,14), by His death on the cross & His bodily resurrection(Romans 5:1-11).

My brother or sister in Christ, this does not mean you will never make another mistake in your life, but it does mean that you now hate sin, and are no longer continually walking in willful sin, but are walking in the Spirit where there is now no more condemnation in Christ Jesus(Romans 8:1-13).

However, if we choose to walk after our flesh and continue in our sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and we will not go to heaven, but will

end up in the lake of fire (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 20:15).

But thank God, we are bought with a price and we now belong to the Lord, as long as we continue in Him by walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Romans 8:1).

As was mentioned earlier, the Lord Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit of God (John 14:16-17) to help us live the Christian life, as we surrender and submit to Him (James 4:7). Be encouraged my brother or sister, God Almighty, the third person of the Trinity (1 John 5:7), the Holy Ghost, now lives inside every true born again believer (John 14:16-17), to enable us to walk in righteousness, turn from sin, and live pleasing unto the Lord. We could never live the Christian life by our own strength or ability, but only through the power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 8:1-16). Thank God He never left us alone. Hallelujah!

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and

not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked(1 John 2:1-6).

### *Now a Saint of God*

My brother or sister according to the Bible you are now a saint of God and are part of His church. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:2-3,

Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be saints*, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs

and ours: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

You do not have to die in order for men to make you a saint, nor is the church a building made by hands, but it is made up of people, a called out assembly of born-again believers in Christ Jesus from this ungodly world of evil, who have repented of their sins and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as Saviour and Lord.

A saint (are the individuals that make up the church) is one who God Almighty has made holy, and blameless because they have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord by faith, and now their sins are washed away by His shed blood on the cross, and God no longer sees our sin because we are forgiven through Christ, and are not blamed for them any longer.

In other words, He has dropped the charges of our sin that were held against us, and He sees us as one who has never sinned or has violated His law, but one who is holy, and blameless, only because of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and His finished work on Calvary.

The reason why the born again believer is now blameless is because the Lord Jesus Christ

was and is blameless and He fulfilled the law of God, He never sinned( 2 Corinthians 5:21) and took our sin and judgment on the cross(John 3:16-17, 36; Romans 5:6-11). And now by repentance and faith in Him alone we have received His righteousness( Romans 3:10-31; Romans 5:1-21; Romans 10:1-13) and are made righteous, just, and blameless because His righteousness is applied to our lives (Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Therefore, God Almighty no longer views us as sinners, but saints of God, who have received the love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness of God only through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Saint of God, now that you understand that being born again means you are now dead to your old life of sin, your sins are forgiven, and are now living a new life of righteousness, holiness, love and truth through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore you no longer talk the same ungodly talk such as cursing and swearing, dirty jokes, gossip, lies, and every other filthy communication (Colossians 3:1-10). You no longer walk after the flesh, meaning you do not love the world (worldly system of evil), that promotes every ungodly thing that goes directly

against God's Word the Bible, but you now love and serve Him, and live only according to His Word (Matthew 4:4).

No longer are you living after the ungodly philosophies and opinions of men, that will produce destruction and damnation of our souls in hell, but are living according to the Word of God that is able to save the souls of all mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ (2Timothy 3:15-17).

### ***Love not the world***

The Bible says in 1 John 2:15-17,

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

My brother or sister, the Bible is very clear that we should not love the world, meaning this wicked, sinful and ungodly evil system that is so prevalent in our world today.

The scripture is not referring to the world in the sense of God's creation, such as the mountains, animals, people, but only to the ungodly promotion of sin that is taught, supported, and encouraged by our secular society, that directly goes against the teachings of the Bible.

We see this ungodly promotion of sin in movies, music, books, many video games, the majority of television and radio to name a few. Not only do we no longer live in sin, once we become born again, but also the scripture tells us we should not love the world and be entertained by sin. Rather, we must hate sin (Psalm 97:10), because it separates us from God, and also for the destructive nature it causes in lives and souls of all mankind, bringing them to a lost eternity in hell without God.

Therefore, my brother or sister, we should no longer love or be entertained by the world, by watching movies or television programs, listening to music or reading books, that promote, encourage, or support adultery, fornication,

homosexuality, transgenderism, violence, cursing and swearing, drugs, dirty jokes, and that blaspheme the precious, magnificent, wonderful, glorious, and matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as any other idea or philosophy that teaches contrary to the Bible. For if we love the world, we do not love God, and according to scripture we are His enemy (James 4:1-4). But now as a born again child of God, we need to feed ourselves on the Word of God, and to fill our mind and our spirit with truth and godliness that will encourage and strengthen our walk with the Lord.

***“Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
... soul, ...strength, and ...mind”(Luke 10:27)***

The Bible says,

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if there be any virtue, and if *there be* any praise,



think on these things  
(Philippians 4:8).

As a new creature in Christ Jesus we should listen to good, godly, anointed Christian music that doesn't sound like the rebellious, sensual music of this ungodly world, but is Bible based, promotes the gospel, encourages us in the Lord, and that worships the Lord in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Also, we only need to be entertained with godly Christian films and books that are true to the Bible and are consistent with Philippians 4:8, that will help us and strengthen our walk with the Lord, as well as encourages us in being a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, by evangelizing the lost by our life and verbal witness (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-17; Ephesians 4:1-3,17-32; 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 2:1-6).

Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

The Christian life is not a dead, dry, boring life, but it is “...joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8). Hallelujah! Because your sins are now forgiven in the Lord Jesus Christ and you are

on your way to heaven, no longer destined for eternity in hell (John 3:16-19). Not only do we have the hope of heaven when we repent of our sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as our Saviour and Lord, but He said He will give us life, "...more abundantly..." (John 10:10) here on earth. He gives us a life free from hatred, depression, jealousy, envy, malice, bitterness, unforgiveness, selfishness, and replaces it with love, truth, forgiveness, a concern for others, and most of all a love for God and His Word.

My brother or sister, the devil who is the thief, that has tried to steal, kill, and destroy our lives in hell by encouraging us to live in sin by disobeying God's Word, has brought nothing but destruction, heartache, and misery to lives, families, marriages, and to this world in general. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The Lord warns us about the dangers of sin and tells us to turn away from it because He loves us, not because He wants to ruin our fun, and take away the joy of living, but because sin is the momentary pleasure that leads to death and not life. The devil never shows us the destructive consequence of our sin, he only shows us the

immediate pleasure and gratification that sin will bring to our flesh, never the bondage it brings us into, and the future consequences of destruction that will come if we continue in it.

However, the Lord who loves us shows us the complete picture and tells the truth about sin. He tells us that sin is pleasurable, but only for a season (Hebrews 11:24-26), and the end result is death and eternal separation from God in the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:15; Revelation 21:8,27).

My brother or sister, God will never take away any good thing from you, only the sin that will destroy you. The Bible says,

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17), and "...no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

## **THE BIBLE (God's Word)**

As a new Christian you need to know God's will for your life and to understand how to walk uprightly before Him. Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

It is impossible to understand or know what is pleasing to God and what He hates, apart from His Word, the Bible.

Unfortunately due to the present confusion, liberalism, and corruption that exists among our modern English versions of the Bible (such as the omission of words and verses from God's Word, paraphrasing, inclusive and politically correct language etc.) it is important in this day of deception as we approach the second return of our Lord, to purchase, obtain and hold fast to God's preserved Words in the English language, the King James Version.

We are commanded in scripture to live by the Word of God, and one cannot live the Christian life apart from the teaching of the Bible. The Bible is not just another book, the work of man, or the opinions of men, it alone is the

inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of Almighty God. The Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Also, in 2 Peter 1:20-21, the scripture tells us,

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

Dear Saint of God, the Bible is your final authority. That means what it says, is what you live by and not your own opinions, or the opinions of someone else, and not even the teachings of a church that teaches contrary to the Bible, but what God has said in His Word. Just as you need physical food to live and help you grow in your body, you also need the Word of God to live for the Lord, and to help you grow spiritually in Christ Jesus. The Bible says in 1

Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

You should read the Bible everyday and ask the Lord to help you understand what He is saying in His Word, and to study His Word faithfully by taking it in its proper context, so that you can, "...shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

As you pray the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, will help you to understand His Word (John 14:26, 1 John 2:27) and will lead you and "...guide you into all truth..."(John16:13).

## **PRAYER**

As a new born again child of God you need to pray and talk to the Lord everyday in prayer. Just as it is impossible to live the Christian life and to understand what is pleasing to God apart from the Bible, prayer also must be fundamental in the life of the believer. The Bible says in Luke 18:1, "And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray and not faint".

The Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 18 gave a parable about a widow who went to an unjust judge to receive deliverance from her adversary. The widow would not stop going to the unjust judge until she received her answer. We know that if an unjust judge would grant the request of the widow, certainly God who is just, and not unjust will eventually answer His children. The Lord Jesus ends the parable with this, "I tell you he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)".

This means we cannot stop praying just because we do not receive our answer right away. It also means that our prayer must be rooted in

scripture, with our faith in Christ, and upon the authority of God's Word and His promises. Not based on our feelings or our circumstances.

Remember, my brother or sister, we are praying to Almighty God who made the heavens and the earth and all things visible and invisible (John 1:1-2). And He "...is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

When we pray to the Lord, we have to pray with faith believing God that He will answer our requests. The Bible says,

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord" (James 1:6-7).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the pattern, and the essential elements of how we should pray to God in Matthew 6:9-15. Jesus said in verse 10 of Matthew chapter 6, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven."



As was stated earlier, our prayer must always be rooted and grounded in the Bible and thus according to God's will. This means that God's will is for us to be healed not to remain sick or diseased, because in heaven no one will be sick or diseased. Although God can use us for His glory even in a sickened or diseased condition (Romans 8:28), His will is that we be made whole. We should only pray the prayer of faith for divine healing for the sick (James 5:14-15), for this is God's will. His will is for souls to be saved, not lost in hell forever(2 Peter 3:9).

Therefore, we should pray for souls to be saved by repentance and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross.

When we pray in faith to God according to His will, the Lord reveals to us in Matthew 6 that our prayer should not only have petitions, but also praise and worship unto the Lord (Matthew 6:9), an examination of the condition of our hearts and lives before God of any unrepentant sin, and to pray for a right relationship of love toward God and man by repentance and forgiveness (Matthew 6:12), as well as praying for the preservation and protection from sin, harm, and evil (Matthew 6:13), and the recognition of the person of God, that we should

only recognize, reverence, and refer to Him only in the masculine gender (Our Father) and not in the feminine.

He is Holy (Matthew 6:9) all powerful to perform our requests and that He alone deserves all the glory, honor, and praise (Matthew 6:13).

And when we pray, we ask these requests in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13)."

Dear saint of God, when we pray to the Lord Jesus Christ He will answer our request, when we pray in faith believing and according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

## **EVANGELISM**

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"  
(Mark 16:15-16).

As a born again child of God, we are commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel (good news) to every man, woman, and child. This is not a suggestion, but a command. Not only should we thank the Lord for our salvation, but we must also have a burden for every lost soul on their way to an eternity in hell, who have not yet repented of their sin and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as Saviour and Lord (John 3:36, Revelation 20:15).

Unfortunately, many in the church today believe that the best way to witness to the unsaved is to just live your life in a godly way without any verbal witnessing to the lost, and eventually they will come to salvation in Christ. However, as good as this may sound it is not

scriptural to say the least, and a complete contradiction to the teachings of the Bible.

There are many good moral living people who are Muslim, Hindu, and even atheists, yet their morals cannot save them on the day of judgment, nor anyone else who is impressed with their lifestyle. The reason for this is because the Bible teaches,

...for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin: As it is written there is none righteous, no not one...For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:9-10,23).

Every one of us has broken God's law and as a result of being found guilty of breaking His law, we deserve the penalty of the law which is death and hell forever. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ died and shed His blood on the cross for our sins, and took our place of judgment, that the judgment of God could pass from us when we repent, and trust Him alone as our personal Lord and Saviour by faith (Romans 5:1-11).

He is the only way to heaven, the only one

that can save us from our sins and from an eternity in the lake of fire (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:23). Therefore, we must not only live a godly life, but we are commanded also to preach the gospel so that souls can be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8).

The Bible says in Hebrews 10:14,

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?  
and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?  
and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Many in the church world today have been deceived by Satan by believing that it is not their gift to evangelize and to witness to the lost, but that it is reserved only for the preacher and certain other born again believers.

Sadly, they have erred from the true teaching of scripture that witnessing and evangelizing the lost for the Lord Jesus Christ is not a special gift, but a responsibility of every born again saint of God. The Lord Jesus Christ said,

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

We cannot save anyone, nor force them to receive God's love, forgiveness, and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is our God given responsibility to speak the truth in love, to a lost and dying world that's on its way to hell about the only way of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). And that they need to repent and trust Him as their Lord and Saviour by faith before it is too late (Acts 20:21).

**THE CHURCH**  
**Bible Believing Full Gospel Church (Where**  
**the Bible is the Final Authority)**

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"  
(Matthew 16:15-18).

The church is not a man made institution, business, or as was mentioned earlier a building made by human hands, but it is built and ordained by God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has revealed Himself to former sinners who are now born again saints of God, because they have repented of their sins and trusted the Lord Jesus

Christ by faith as their personal Lord and Saviour (John 3:3,16; Acts 2:37-47).

The church is comprised of individuals who have like Simon Peter, received the revelation of who the Lord Jesus Christ really is and have received Him as Lord and Saviour.

He is not just a prophet, great teacher, or moral religious leader, but He is God Almighty, who became a man (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16) (and never lost his divinity when He became a man) in order to die on the cross for our sins. He alone is the only way to heaven, and the only means of escape from the fires of eternal damnation in hell (John 3:16,36; John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Jesus said, "upon this rock I will build my church". The Lord is not saying that He is building His church on Peter, but upon Himself, because the context refers to Peter recognizing the Person of Christ, that He is the "...Christ the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

Peter also recognizes that the Lord is the Rock that the church is built upon not himself (1 Peter 2:5-10).

Therefore, my brother or sister, even if someone attends church on a regular basis, has official church membership, and who may even



be active in church ministry, if they have not repented of their sins and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as their personal Lord and Saviour, they are not a part of His church.

It is of vital importance that you attend a church of born-again believers like yourself where the Bible alone is the final authority, not a false church where they do not preach the born again message, and the Bible is not their final authority. For any place that calls itself a church and does not have the Bible as their final authority, nor preach that we must be born again by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and embraces sin, worldliness, & false doctrine, is not the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ, but a deception of Satan (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Jude 4).

As you know, attending church cannot save you. However, because you are now saved and are part of His church you should attend the assembly of believers regularly, to grow and be encouraged from the Word of God, and also to be an encouragement to other born-again Christians.

The Bible says in Hebrews 10:24-25,

And let us consider one another  
to provoke unto love and to good

works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The Word of God tells us not to forsake "the assembling of ourselves," referring to the neglecting of fellowship with the rest of the body of Christ. We are not an island to ourselves, we are a part of the body of Christ, His Church, a called out assembly from sin, the world, and the devil (Acts 26:15-18; Romans 6:1-23; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17).

## **WATER BAPTISM**

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).

As a new Christian you need to be water baptized. The Lord Jesus did not give us the option whether or not we would like to be water baptized, He commanded that all true born-again believers in Him should obey His teaching and be baptized (Mark 16:15-16).

The word "baptize" in the New Testament means to, "immerse, submerge; make whelmed (i.e. fully wet)" (Strong's Concordance).

Therefore baptism in scripture does not mean "sprinkling" or "splashing" but to immerse

one's whole body in water (Matthew 3:11-17; John 3:22-23).

The purpose of water baptism is to symbolize the death of our old lifestyle of sin, and to rise to a new life of righteousness in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a testimony and witness to the world that we have surrendered our whole lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that we are now serving Him and are His disciple, no longer serving the world, the flesh, and the devil, but Him alone.

It is important to understand that baptism cannot save us from our sins (1 Peter 3:21), because the requirement in the Bible for one to be eligible for water baptism, is that they must first be saved by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone (Acts 8:26-40).

Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save us from our sins, because of what He finished on the cross of Calvary, by dying on the cross and shedding His blood for our sins. No good work or effort on our behalf can save us. Only by faith in Him alone can we be saved (Galatians 16:21; Ephesians 2:8-9). However, once we are saved we must obey the Lord's command of being water baptized, because it is an outward act of what we have done inwardly. It is proclaiming to the

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world that you are not ashamed of being a child of God that has come from darkness to light, "...*from* the power of Satan unto God..." (Acts 26:18), and that you now belong to the Saviour of your soul, the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it* (Malachi 3:8-10).

My brother or sister all that we own belongs to the Lord and every blessing that we have has come from Him (James 1:16-17).

Therefore, the tithe and the offering that the Lord asks from us is only a small portion of the blessing He has given us. We are to bring our tithe and offering to the "storehouse", referring to the place of worship or our local church assembly where we are attending and hearing the

Word of God. The word "tithe" means, a tenth or ten percent. An offering is something over and above the required tithe.

The reason why the Lord looks upon the believer as robbing Him when the tithe and the offering is not dispensed, is because they are neglecting to honor God with the finances that are His, and they are not giving Him thanks for the blessings He has provided. The tithe and the offerings belong to Him, and He has pronounced a blessing upon those who decide to walk by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by giving their tithes and offerings and to trust Him for their every need (Philippians 4:13).

The tithe is a reminder to us that God alone is our provider, not our job, our business, or the government, and that we must, "...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The scripture teaches us from Malachi 3:8-11 that one is "cursed with a curse" when the tithe and offerings are held back from the Lord's work, when one decides to walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit (Romans 8:1). And that He will, "pour out a blessing" when we walk by faith and obedience to the Word of God by giving the Lord

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our tithes and offerings. The Lord proclaims a blessing so mighty, "...that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*" (Malachi 3:8-10).



## **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST**

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

As a new born again Christian you need the power of the Holy Ghost to be the most effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ called this baptism of the Holy Ghost, "...the promise of the Father" (Luke 24:49). He said, "...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The disciples on the day of Pentecost received the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill the Lord's commission to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 15:15), and to the "uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The Lord knows we are unable in our insufficient weak human ability to even attempt to fulfill the task of world evangelism of lost souls on their way to an eternal hell. We need the

help of the Holy Ghost to live the Christian life and also to be used mightily in His service. That is why He sent us the Helper (John 16:7-14).

It is important to understand that when we become true born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ by repentance and faith in Him alone, the Holy Spirit immediately comes to live in us and is with us at the time of conversion (John 3:3-8; John 14:16-18; Titus 2:4-7).

However, the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a biblical experience that occurs when the Holy Spirit of God comes not "to live in us", or is with us (John 14:16-18), but comes, "upon" (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; 19:5-7) us to fill us with His power to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. This necessary biblical experience is separate from salvation and the indwelling presence of the Spirit (Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 19:1-7). However, it may occur immediately after salvation (Acts 10:44-48).

The Bible evidence to know when a believer in Christ Jesus has received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, to be "endued" with power for service, is always speaking with, " ... tongues, as the Spirit" gives the "utterance" (Acts 2:4; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10: 44-48; Acts 19:1-7).

The Baptizer is not man, but the God

Man, the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:11).

My dear brother or sister, this precious gift from God, the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38-39), is the third person of the triune God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). He is God Almighty (Acts 5:3-4), and He wants to use you for His glory before the Lord returns, to bring lost mankind to repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). His purpose is never to glorify us, but only the Lord Jesus Christ and to bring lost souls headed for eternal damnation in the lake of fire to salvation in Him (John 16:7-14).

The Lord will baptize you with the Holy Ghost when you ask, seek, and knock in prayer believing Him for the power from on high (Luke 11:9-13), to live a victorious Christian life with a testimony to the world, and to be a witness to the uttermost part of the earth that, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Pointing souls to the only Redeemer and Saviour of all mankind, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:1-21).

"...ye shall receive Power..." (Acts 1:8)

## **ENCOURAGEMENT & EXHORTATION**

Dear saint in Christ Jesus, we do not pray, read our Bible, go to church, or evangelize the lost in order for us to be saved, for none of these things or any good works can save us. Only repentance and faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did at the cross of Calvary can redeem us, not ourselves (Ephesians 2:8-9).

However, we do these things because we are saved. In other words, it is a result of our salvation, never the means of our salvation, and the Holy Spirit of God gives us the power to live the Christian life (Romans 8:1-17). Our hearts and lives are changed by the Lord Jesus Christ, and we no longer live a life of sin, but have brought forth fruit meet for repentance (Matthew 3:7-10; Acts 20:21; Acts 26:20-23). That means a life that has evidently manifested a true born again experience, has turned from a life of sin and shame by surrendering and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ completely for their salvation, and has allowed the Holy Spirit to have full control of their life (Romans 8:1-17; James 2:14-26; 1 John 1:5-10).

My brother or sister, we may never meet on

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this side of eternity but thanks be to God, by His grace through our Lord Jesus Christ, because He paid for our salvation on the cross, we will see each other in the realms of glory in heaven, and the new Jerusalem (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation Chapters 21,22).

As a new Christian, I pray the Lord has blessed you and has used, "*What It Means To Be Born Again*" to help you in your new walk with the Lord. My prayers are with you my brother or sister. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5-8), "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4), and He also said, "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Hallelujah!

I love you in Jesus name, but never forget Jesus loves you most (John 3:16).

Keep the victory in the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evangelist Sean Bonitto".

Evangelist Sean Bonitto

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**Rev. Sean Bonitto was born again at the age of 15 and called to preach the gospel soon after his conversion. He holds a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Eastern Pentecostal Bible College (now Masters College and Seminary, Toronto, ON).**

**He has youth pastored, and preached at revival and crusade meetings, in Canada, United States, Jamaica, Liberia, Haiti, India, and the UK.**

**He is the founder and president of International Deliverance Ministries, and Senior Pastor and founder of International Sanctuary of Deliverance located in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he presently resides with his wife Pam, and children Esther and Isaac.**

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