

## Lesson 23 – What Happens When a Person Is Born Again

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

– 2 Cor. 5:15

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The most important thing that can happen in the life of any person is the born again experience. This is far more important than any other life event – graduation, marriage, career, having children, getting rich – or any other life event you can think of. Being born again is the only life event that can change a person’s life from the inside out, put a person in right relationship with God and change their eternal destiny.

Most of us really don’t regard this life experience with the same importance that God does. We need to acknowledge how important it is in our own lives, and how extremely important it is for us to help others to come to the knowledge of Christ.

Various Bible scholars have listed from 30 to 60 things that happen to a person the moment he or she is born again. The list given here is divided into categories. It is probably not exhaustive. However, it should give us a good appreciation of what happened to us when we received Christ as our Savior.

### 1. New Standing with God

- a. Justified – Rom. 8:1
- b. Redeemed – Gal. 3:13; Rev. 5:9
- c. Forgiven – Acts 13:38; 26:18
- d. Reconciled to God – Rom. 5:10
- e. Born into the family of God – John 3:3-7
- f. Sealed by the Holy Spirit until the Day of Redemption – Eph 1:13; 4:30

### 2. New Identity

- a. Before conversion to Christ
  - i. Sinners – 1 Tim. 1:5
  - ii. Dead in trespasses and sins – Eph. 2:1
  - iii. Without God in the world – Eph. 2:12
  - iv. Being far off from God – Eph. 2:13
  - v. Worthy of damnation
- b. Our identity as believers
  - i. Saints – Phil. 1:1
  - ii. Children of God – we’ll see this in a minute
  - iii. Children of the King – we’ll see this in a minute
  - iv. Ambassadors for Christ – 2 Cor. 5:20
  - v. Pilgrims and strangers in this world – 1 Pet. 2:11

### 3. New Family – Eph. 2:19

- a. Adoption from one family to another – Gal. 4:25
  - i. Before conversion – Child of the devil – John 8:44; 1 John 3:8
  - ii. Since conversion – Child of God – John 1:12
- b. New Father – John 1:12; 1 John 3:1

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- c. New family members – Rom. 16:1-4 and following
  - i. We are brothers and sisters to all other true believers in the world
  - ii. Some of the relations we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ become stronger than the relations we have with our physical brothers and sisters. – John 13:35
- d. New household privileges
  - i. Access to our Father – Eph 2:14
  - ii. Inheritance – Acts 26:18; Rom. 8:17
  - iii. Accepted as a family member – Eph. 1:6
- 4. New Nature**
  - a. Before conversion we had only a sin nature – Matt. 7:21-22; Eph. 2:1-3
  - b. After conversion we have a new nature that leads us toward righteousness – Eph. 2:10; 1 John 3:9
- 5. New purpose for living**
  - a. Mental health professionals and other experts say a healthy person needs a purpose for life greater than self. Groups like AA acknowledge this.
  - b. Christ gives us purpose for life
    - i. All people were made to know and serve God. – Rom 14:4; 16:1
    - ii. Knowing and fitting into God’s purpose creates psychological well-being.
- 6. New Promises for Life**
  - a. Christ is the Enabler of my abilities – Phil. 4:13 / John 15:5
  - b. Christ is the Supplier of my needs – Phil. 4:19
  - c. Christ is the Master of my life’s challenges – Rom. 8:28
- 7. New Beginning – 2 Cor. 5:17**
  - a. It doesn’t matter how badly a person’s life is messed up, Jesus offers a new beginning.
  - b. Even a terrorist could have a new beginning – 1 Tm. 1:12-14
- 8. New Hope**

*In Christ, our hope is in a sure thing. It is not wishful thinking. It is the expectation that God’s promises of good things will surely come to pass.*

  - a. There is no hope without Jesus – Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13
  - b. Our hope is eternal in Jesus – Titus 2:13; 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:3
- 9. New Citizenship**
  - a. We are citizens of Heaven – Eph. 2:19; Phil 3:20
- 10. New Quality of Life – John 10:10**
  - a. Gal 5:22-23
    - i. Love
    - ii. Joy
    - iii. Peace – Phil 4:7
    - iv. Longsuffering
    - v. Kindness
    - vi. Goodness
    - vii. Faithfulness
    - viii. Gentleness
    - ix. Self-control
- 11. New Eternal Destination**
  - a. Before salvation, we were bound for Hell – Rev. 21:8
  - b. As children of God, we will share His heavenly home – 2 Cor. 5:8