

# Are You Born Again?



6

Tests  
for the  
Christian

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?** This is one of life's most important questions. Jesus Christ said, "...*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" (John 3:3).

It's not enough to reply, "I belong to a church, so I guess I'm a Christian." Thousands of nominal Christians show none of the definite signs of being born again which the Scriptures have given us in the First Epistle of John.

### **NO HABITUAL SINNING**

First of all, John wrote: "*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...*" (1 John 3:9).

A person who has been born again does not habitually commit sin. There was probably a time when he didn't even think about whether his actions were sinful or not, and he didn't feel grieved after doing evil. But the true Christian hates sin, flees from it, mourns when he falls under its influence, and longs to be completely delivered from it. Sinful pleasures are no longer enjoyable to him, it has become a horrible thing which he hates. It is the great desire of his soul to commit no sin at all.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

### **BELIEVING IN CHRIST**

Second, John wrote: "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...*" (1 John 5:1).

A person who is born again believes that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour who can pardon his soul, and that beside Him there is no Saviour at all. In himself he sees nothing but unworthiness. Trusting in Jesus, he believes that his sins are all forgiven. He believes that because he has accepted Christ's finished work and death on the Cross, he is considered righteous in God's sight, and he may look forward to death and judgment without alarm. He may have fears and doubts, but ask him if he is willing to trust in anything instead of Christ, and see what he will say. Ask him

if he will rest his hope of eternal life on his own goodness, his own works, or his church, and listen to his reply.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

### **PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Third, John wrote: "...*Every one that doeth righteousness is born of him*" (1 John 2:29).

The person who is born again strives to live according to God's will, doing the things that please God and avoiding the things that God hates. He continually looks to Christ as his example, but he knows he is not perfect.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

### **LOVING OTHER CHRISTIANS**

Fourth, John wrote: "*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...*" (1 John 3:14).

A person who is born again has a special love for all true disciples of Christ. Like his Father in Heaven, he loves all men with a great general love, but he has a special love for those who share his faith in Christ. He is never so much at home as when he is in their company. He feels that they are all members of the same family; soldiers of the Lord with a common enemy.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

### **OVERCOMING THE WORLD**

Fifth, John wrote: "*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world...*" (1 John 5:4).

A person who is born again does not use worldly standards as his standard of right and wrong. He no longer finds pleasure in things that seem to bring happiness to most people. He loves God's praise more than man's

praise. He fears offending God more than offending man.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**



### **KEEPING ONESELF PURE**

Sixth, John wrote: "...he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not" (1 John 5:18).

A person who is born again is careful of his own soul. He tries not only to avoid sin but also to avoid everything that may lead to it. He is careful about the company he keeps. He is diligent to be watchful, humble, and prayerful.

**What would the apostle say about you?**

**ARE YOU BORN OF GOD?**

### **THE TEST**

These are the six great marks of a born again Christian.

There is a vast difference in the depth and distinctness of these marks in different people. In some they are hardly noticeable. In others they are bold and unmistakable.

How should we react to these things? We can logically come to only one conclusion—only those who are born again have these six characteristics, and those who do not have these marks are not born again. This seems to be the conclusion to which the apostle intended us to come.

**Do you have these characteristics?**

**ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?**

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