

**BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD GAVE US NEW LIFE!
HOW TO KNOW IF I AM BORN AGAIN?**

Have you been to the hospital's labour ward? The nurse carries the baby out of the room and puts the baby on the cot. None of us can explain how a baby is actually formed in the womb. The whole process is complex and mysterious. But after the baby is born, we can see and hear if the baby is alive. How?



We listen for the cry of the baby as evidence of life! Now, how do we know / how can we know if we are born again? Well, we listen to the baby's cry; we look for evidences that new life is present.

Once again, let's turn to the Bible and see what are some of the effects/ evidences of the new birth. And it is to John the apostle that we must now turn to.

- [1] *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9)*

John says, "If you are born of God, you do not sin." Why? It is because you have been born of God. This re-birth is the reason why one does not sin. And the meaning of "do not sin" here actually means "do not continue to sin, do not continue in sin."

Do you claim to be born again? If so, is there a break with sin in your life? Is there this true desire to have nothing to do with sin? If not, we cannot, on the basis of God's Word, accept that profession of faith to be credible.

- [2] *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. (1 John 2:29)*

God is righteous. He does what is right and He hates sin. Now, like begets like. Therefore, everyone who is born of the righteous God must practice righteousness. And God's righteousness is reflected in His Laws. So we will live according to His Laws, we will seek to obey them.

- [3] *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)*

Here John tells us that he who is born of God has two characteristics: (i) he knows God and (ii) he will love the brethren.

What does it mean to "know God"? Do some work ☺ and read **Jeremiah 9:23-24** to find out! By what gauge can I know if I really love the brethren? Do more work ☺ ☺ and read **1 John 3:16-20** and **1 Corinthians 13:1-8a** to find out!

- [4] *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. (1 John 5:1)*

No one can believe that Jesus is the Christ unless he has been born of God. Conversely, if one has been born of God, he will believe that Jesus is the Christ, that Jesus is God's appointed Saviour. The word 'believe' does not mean just knowing facts about Jesus, but actually being convicted about the truth about Jesus and committing oneself to Christ.

We cannot see how the Holy Spirit causes one to be born again but we can see the effects of being born again -- that person will not *continually, habitually* sin, he will practice righteousness, he will love the brethren, he knows God and he believes in Christ.

Are these evidences found in you?

WEI En Yi