

**A GUIDE TO
NEW
BIRTH**

THE PURPOSE OF NEW BIRTH

The purpose of new birth is to take someone who is spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins and make them spiritually alive toward God through the entrance of the Holy Spirit by grace through faith, providing salvation, forgiveness of sins and new life through the Lord Jesus Christ. (Read Ephesians 2:1-18.)

THE PATTERN OF NEW BIRTH

REPENT (Read Mark 1:14-15.) In receiving new birth, repenting involves turning away from something and turning toward something else. As a person seeking to receive spiritual new birth—passing from spiritual death and into spiritual life in Jesus Christ—repenting involves turning from sin, self-righteousness and independence and turning in faith to God for forgiveness and salvation. In the Bible, repenting means a change of mind and heart that results in a change of decision and direction. When we repent of (admit and turn away from) our sins and trust in Jesus Christ as our risen Lord and Savior, we receive God’s payment for our sins and God’s promise and provision of eternal life.

BELIEVE (Read John 3:16.) In receiving new birth, believing involves relying completely on something or someone in unwavering confidence. That something is the gospel or good news that God sent His Son Jesus to live a sinless life and die a sinner’s death to pay for the sins of all people for all time. That someone is Jesus the King—the one who triumphed over sin, Satan, death and the grave. Jesus, the one who died to pay the penalty for sin and rose from the dead to provide the gift of new life, now and forever.

The following is a helpful definition of the gospel you are called to believe:

The gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died—in our place. Three days later, He rose from the dead, proving He is the Son of God and offering the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins to anyone who repents and believes in Him!¹

CONFESS (Read Romans 10:8-13.) In receiving new birth, we are to confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord and Savior and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead as our triumphant King. For with our heart we believe unto being made righteous, and with our mouth we confess (agree with what God says is necessary for salvation in Christ Jesus) unto being saved from the penalty, power, guilt and shame of sin. The Scripture clearly states that anyone who calls on the name of Jesus in repenting, believing and confessing will be saved.

¹ The Gospel Creed, Rice Brooks

Use the following prayer as an example of how to repent, believe and confess:

“Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I have rebelled against Your holy will and law. I know that my sin separates me from You and the Father forever. I believe that I need a Savior. I believe that You are the Son of God sent by God the Father to save me. I believe that You lived a perfect life in obedience to God. I believe You died on the cross to pay the price for my sins. I believe God the Father raised You from the dead in victory over sin and death forever. I believe that You are seated in victory at the Father’s right hand. I believe You are the Lord and rightful King and Ruler of all. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me of all my sin. I receive Your forgiveness and believe that the penalty for my sin is paid, the power of my sin is broken, the guilt of my sin is absolved, and the shame of my sin is removed forever. I ask You to give me eternal life with You. I receive Your eternal life and believe it is mine forever. I surrender my life to Your lordship. You are now my King. You are now my Lord. You are now my Savior forever. I will follow You all the days of my life. Thank You that You have saved me. Thank You that I have now been born again into Your family. In Your name Lord Jesus, I pray, Amen.”

THE PROCESS OF MINISTERING NEW BIRTH

1 Use the S.A.L.T. Principle²

- **START A CONVERSATION.** When we engage people in a gospel conversation, we open the door to a divine dialogue that can produce dynamic results.
- **ASK QUESTIONS AND LISTEN.** Asking questions and listening communicates interest in someone’s story, beliefs and perspective. A sincere interview can turn into a sincere invitation to consider the claims of Christ and the eternal, redemptive purpose of God.
- **TELL THE STORY.** First, tell God’s story. That is the gospel of grace through the offering of God the Father’s sinless Son. (Refer to the gospel definition under “The Pattern of New Birth” in the “Believe” section of this appendix.) Then, tell your story. That is how the gospel has impacted and influenced your life for eternal good. This is your testimony, or evidence for the case for Christ’s power to save, heal and deliver.

2 Lead the person or persons in the prayer of repenting, believing and confessing found under “The Pattern of New Birth” in the “Confess” section of this appendix.

²The S.A.L.T. Principle, Rice Brooks

3 Help them to take next steps in being baptized in water and baptized with the Holy Spirit.

4 Help them find their way into a community of true believers in Christ where they can be cared for and disciplined unto maturity as a dedicated follower of Jesus.

THE PROOFS OF NEW BIRTH

It is critically important that we do not assume we have received new birth. Paul told the Corinthians to test themselves to see whether or not they were truly saved. (Read 2 Corinthians 13:5.) It doesn't matter if you come from a good and godly family, were raised in a Christian environment or have done good works. No one is saved by anything other than the grace of God by putting saving faith in the God of grace. (Read Ephesians 2:8-10.) Here are three simple questions to ask and pray about to see if there are proofs of new birth:

1 WHEN WAS I BORN AGAIN?

While you might not always be able to remember the exact day, you and others should be able to identify a point in time when real spiritual change through new birth took place.

2 WHAT CHANGES TOOK PLACE?

It is impossible for someone to be born again and not experience significant changes. It is a myth to believe that the Holy Spirit can come into a life and someone's life remain the same. Three evidences of a changed life through new birth are a desire to know and obey God, a heart that no longer desires to sin and a peace and confidence that one is forgiven and secure in God's love and eternal life. (Read 1 John 1:5-2:1; 3:4-9; 4:17-19.)

3 WHO BORE WITNESS TO THE CHANGE?

Ask those who know you best and love you most if they saw significant change in your life after you prayed to be born again. The early church believed that Saul had been born again after Barnabas explained the changes in his life. (Read Acts 9:26-28.) When someone is truly born again into God's family through saving faith in Jesus, there is clear and compelling evidence of change.