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## **Born Again**

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Born Again.

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### Topics.

- He gave the right (power in the KJV) to become children of God.
- Unless one is born again, they cannot see the Kingdom of God.
- Born again to a living hope.
- You have been born again.
- Whoever practices righteousness has been born of Christ.
- Everyone who loves is born of God.
- Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world.
- No one who is born of God sins

**INTRODUCTION:** since there is some confusion over what the expression born again means the focus of this study is upon all the verses that use the expression born again and the word born when it is used in the context of salvation.

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### JOHN 1:12-13

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#### He Gave the Right (Power in the KJV) to Become Children of God.

- **John 1:12-13:** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right (Power in the KJV) to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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**Power:** in this context and from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of having ability it means all who believe the eternal word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ are given the ability and the right to become the sons and daughters of God.

**Even to them that believe:** means those who did not see Jesus in the flesh while he was here on earth, still have to believe everything that those who had seen him believed.

**Believe in his name:** believing in Jesus name does not mean people are saved just by believing in a name. Believing in a name means believing everything that name embraces and represents as to authority, person, teaching and works. It means believing all who Jesus claimed to be and all that he spoke.

**Born not of blood:** can refer to two things, firstly that no one is saved simply because they are born a blood descendant of Abraham and secondly to a natural birth.

**Born not of the will of the flesh:** nor of the will of man means born not of human effort or human determination (i.e., no one can be spiritually born again by self-effort or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rights, holy days or by legalistically keeping religious customs and traditions or even by good works).

**Born of the will of God:** means born according to God's will, but this does not mean that God before the foundation of the world predestined some to be saved and others to be condemned if that was the case proclaiming the Gospel would be pointless since those predestined to be saved would be saved regardless of what happens and those predestined to be condemned would remain condemned no matter how many times

they heard the Gospel. Added to this it would mean that not one of us would have free will in regards to choosing or denying the Lord Jesus Christ since our eternal destiny would be already determined. Even more than this Jesus himself said:

- God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

This clearly shows that the power to choose belongs to each one of us. Being born by the will of God means being spiritually born according to God's eternal plan of salvation in Christ that He planned and purposed in his eternal mind before time began. Coming to God according to His will, means coming to God according to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the message of the cross. Whoever comes to God in this manner has the power (ability and right) to become eternal sons and daughters of God.

**NOTE:** whoever is in Christ is a brother or sister of Christ and therefore an adopted child of God so in this sense those in Christ are already sons and daughters of God. The reason John states that we have the power (right and ability) to become sons of God in this context is because neither he nor any one of us can know if a brother or sister in Christ will endure in their faith through the trials, troubles and tribulations of life until the Lord returns. Even when we are saved in Christ it does not guarantee our salvation, this is because God always leaves a person with free choice. He will never violate our free will; we always have the choice to consciously and deliberately deny Christ and turn away from our faith. The Lord will never turn away from us while we remain in faith so in this sense our salvation to eternal life is guaranteed, providing we always remain by faith in Christ. For further information see: -

- John 1 in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Predestination (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## JOHN 3:3-7

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### **Unless one is Born Again, they Cannot See the Kingdom of God.**

- **John 3:3-7:** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Nicodemus belonged to a group called the Pharisees which means the separated ones. The Pharisees were rulers of the Jews and the most-strict and by far the most influential sect of the three prominent societies of Judaism that were around at the time of Christ (the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essences). Pharisees loved to wear distinguishing garb so as to be easily recognised and were found everywhere in Palestine not only in Jerusalem.

They had great authority and brought into the Jewish faith:

1. Legalism.
2. Formalised religion.
3. The organisation of the Jewish faith.

So that ultimately Pharisaism and Judaism became almost synonymous. They pledged themselves to obey all facets of the traditions to minutest detail and were sticklers to ceremonial purity. This developed into a feeling of superiority over other nations and people. From this superior feeling as well as religious emotion, pride found its most extreme

expression. The Pharisees were haughty and arrogant because they believed they were the only interpreters of God and His word. They made life difficult for themselves and bitter for others, and despised those whom they did not consider their equals. Their teaching that salvation came by maintaining tradition and keeping the law had such a strong influence on the minds of their followers that God's grace was thought to come from self-effort rather than grace so it was only natural that such a religion would ultimately become a matter of externals and not a faith of the heart. For further information see:

- Pharisees in, Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Born in this context literally means, to procreate of the father and by extension of the mother, figuratively it means to regenerate, revitalize and or to bring forth. Nicodemus no-doubt knowing that the religious organisation he belonged to was against Jesus approaches him secretly during the night. It is interesting to notice that even though Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews he humbles himself before Christ and addresses him as Rabbi which means master added to this, he recognised that Jesus was sent and favoured by God because of the miracles he did.

### **When Nicodemus hears Jesus words:**

- Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

He is stunned and confused by Jesus statement because he thought Jesus was talking about a natural birth, so Jesus repeats his statement adding that to enter the Kingdom of God one must be:

- Born of water and born of the Spirit, otherwise no-one can enter the Kingdom of God.

The fact Jesus told Nicodemus twice that he must, be born again to enter the Kingdom of God shows how important it is to understand the phrase, born again. The words born of water refer to being water baptised while born of the Spirit refers to believing the Good News of the Gospel of grace, repenting before God, and having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for one's salvation to eternal life. A person is born of the Spirit in that moment when their mind is enlightened to their fallenness before God, the heart is full of remorse and repentance and they accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In this supernatural moment a person's heart and life is transformed toward desiring the things of God and toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Born of the flesh:** refers to a natural birth and the words, it is flesh means those born by a natural birth remain flesh. This means they are earthy minded meaning that their mind gives no thought toward God it is solely focused on the things of this world it is caught up in either, the cares and anxieties this world brings or on gaining material possessions and chasing after the pleasures of this world. It means that they are separated from God and more concerned about protecting and satisfying their own ego, pride and wellbeing than they are about how their life reflects God to others.

**Born of the Spirit:** refers to those whose minds upon hearing of the Good News of the Gospel and the message of the cross are illuminated to their fallenness and separation from God and brought to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and eternal salvation in this spiritual moment their sins are forgiven and God's eternal favour is toward them. When this life changing event happens a person's life and heart is supernaturally transformed toward God and they are changed from being earthy minded to being heavenly minded which means that their mind is more concerned with the things that concern God and His Kingdom than the things of this world. Added to this they now care about how their life reflects God's character and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ more than they are about their own ego, pride and wellbeing. The apostle Paul explains this life changing event with the following words:

- God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14).

### **The Wind Blows where it Wishes.**

There are two aspects to the following verse:

- The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit (v8).
1. Jesus is likening the Spirit of God to the wind, this is because the wind appears to have a mind of its own, no-human can control it or stop it from going in any direction the wind simply blows north, south, east or west it goes wherever it wishes regardless of obstacles or what is in its way, but everyone feels it.

Jesus is telling Nicodemus no-one can control the Spirit it cannot be controlled, or stopped from saving those God is going to save. The Spirit goes where it will and saves who it will, whether they are rulers of Jews or Pharisees whether they are Jewish or Gentile, rich or poor, noble or lowly no-can tell who the Spirit will convict and save.

2. A second aspect of Jesus words is the fact that **everyone** born of the Spirit no matter who they are, rich or poor and no matter what rank they may or may not hold in life all who are born of the Spirit no matter where they are in the world share the Good News of the Gospel whereas under Jewish law only the Levitical priesthood proclaimed God's word to the people and then only from the temple.

**NOTE:** to the Jewish mind the concept of being born again meant to be converted to another way of living. Nicodemus was born a Jew, was born under the Mosaic Law and born a member of the Pharisees and as such was a ruler of the people. He obviously knew he could not change the fact he was born a Jew. This is the reason he asks Jesus how he could become something different to what he was born, but Jesus is not talking about Nicodemus changing who he was as a result of his natural birth, but that to enter into the new life he is teaching he must take on a new view of life, a new set of responsibilities and a new vocation to follow Christ, meaning he would need to forsake his old religious customs and traditions.

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### **1 PETER 1:3**

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#### **Born Again to a Living Hope.**

- **1 Peter 1:3:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Blessed be God, no-one can boast that they have earned their salvation or are worthy of it, all boasting in our salvation is to God our heavenly Father since it is only by his mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved to eternal life.

Paul wrote:

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

These words of Paul's shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God set His love upon us long before we did anything to earn such love. To be born again in this context refers to sinners being:

- Delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13)

To be born again carries the following two ideas:

- 1 To live a new life in Christ.
- 2 To have a complete change of mind, thoughts, passions and lifestyle.

A worldly example (howbeit limited) is when a person wins the lottery and they shout in abundant excitement, "I feel like I have been born again and their entire life changes. Such is the change in a sinner's life that comes in honest heartfelt repentance before God and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. This is the reason Christian salvation is referred to as being born again.

**Born again to a living hope:** all brothers and sisters in Christ are said to be born again to a living hope, this, is because Christ our resurrected Saviour is alive and it is in him that we are saved and that our hope is set upon. It should be noted that when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and God cannot lie. The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). Every Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

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## 1 PETER 1:23

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### **You Have Been Born Again.**

- **1 Peter 1:23:** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

To be born again in the Jewish culture meant taking on a new view of life and new responsibilities. The concept of being born again meant a conversion of life from what one had lived to another way of living and another way of thinking. When the term born again is used in Christian circles it refers to that moment when a sinner humbles themselves in honest repentance before God and by faith accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. When a person comes to God with an open and sincere heart in this manner God delivers them from the domain of darkness and transfers them to the Kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13). This is what it means to be born again the desires of the MIND and the passions of the heart are transformed from the old way of thinking and the old life to a new way to thinking and to living a new life with God.

**NOTE:** since this is a spiritual experience between God and the one praying no-one needs a priest or church minister to pray this prayer with them although it might be nice to have a valued Christian friend share the moment and certainly will be of valuable help and encouragement as the new born begins their new life in Christ.

**The living and abiding word of God:** the word of God is called living and abiding, and the imperishable seed because it is the word of the Lord Jesus Christ who is not only living, but also eternal. The Scriptures are written to unite us through faith and love to the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever is in Christ's family becomes an adopted child of God and like children of an earthly father are the rightful heirs to their father's inheritance likewise the children of God become the heirs of their heavenly Father's inheritance which of course is eternal life in everlasting glory.

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## 1 JOHN 2:29

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## Whoever Practices Righteousness Has Been Born of Christ.

- **1 John 2:29:** If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

This verse is in the context of antichrists and false teachers. John is telling new converts that they can identify those who are true brothers and sisters of Christ by their lifestyle. Whoever is living to bring honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith is a true disciple in contrast to antichrists and false teachers who live to serve themselves and fulfil their own selfish ambition by establishing their own religious empire.

**NOTE:** the righteousness spoken of in this context is not about righteous that leads to eternal life, but about living a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. It is about doing right and treating people with decency and respect. For further detail concerning this, see the title:

- Reasons the Faithful in Christ Aim to Keep the Law (at the end of this chapter).

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### 1 JOHN 3:9

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#### No One Born of God Keeps Sinning.

- **1 John 3:9:** No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

John is not saying that Christians will never sin, but that they will not live a lifestyle of sin or constantly practice sin because God's seed (referring to God's Spirit) is in them and living a worldly lifestyle of sin goes against the Spirit of God that is in them. John is telling the little children (v7) (new converts and those insecure in their faith) that this is how they can tell the difference between a person that is born of God and one that is not. The person that is born of God will be living a lifestyle that outwardly evidences their inward belief (howbeit not perfectly) whereas the lifestyle of a person who is not born of God will outwardly show that they have absolutely no thought, consciousness, desire or passion to live in a manner that would bring honour to God, a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Christian faith. We know that John is not saying those born of God will never sin because earlier in this letter he wrote: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:10).

If anyone of us could attain to a life without sin Christ died for no reason. Jesus did not suffer a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that we could attain to the perfect Holiness of God, but because we couldn't.

**NOTE:** the King James Bible says:

- Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (1 John 3:9).

Clearly no Christian is able to live a life totally free from sin if we could there would be no-need for grace and no need for Christ to have died. Added to this John himself says in this same letter:

- If we say we have not sinned, we make the Lord a liar and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:10).

Obviously, the translation of this verse in the more modern Bibles which state:

- No one born of God makes a practice of sinning.

Harmonizes with all other teachings of the Bible far better than do the words, "Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin." John is simply stating what should be obvious to everyone who is born of God which is that no-one who loves the Lord will be living a lifestyle of deliberate continual sin or a lifestyle that brings dishonour to God, and a bad testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

**God's seed abides in him:** the word seed comes from the Greek word (Sperma). Strong's Concordance says it refers to the grain or kernel which contains within itself the germ or life of the future plants and to whatever possesses the vital force and the life-giving power. It carries the idea of something sown, (including the male sperm). In the context of this verse it can refer to the following three things:

1. The divine energy of the Holy Spirit that operates within the heart to spiritually renew and revitalized faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The love of God being sown in the heart.

The concept of being born again in Jewish culture meant a conversion of life from what a Jew had lived to another way of living it meant new responsibilities and new attitudes and carried the idea of changing who they had become to becoming someone different. It denotes the idea of taking on a new view of life and a NEW view of the world to what they had been taught and born into and to totally embrace another heritage and another view entirely different. In the Bible the term born again is much the same it means a total change of heart, the entire focus and purpose of a person's life is changed, but all of this change comes about not by self-effort, but when a person is humble enough to approach God with an honest and repentant heart and accept His eternal plan of salvation that comes to every sinner through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through Christ the human heart is touched by God's forgiveness and His grace and their life is turned around from the inside, not by force but through God's love entering the human heart. When this spiritual event happens in a person's life they experience Christ's love and new purposes and new focuses begin to arise from the inside and their life and worldview is changed from chasing the things of this world to following God and the Lord Jesus Christ, it is in this way they are in the biblical sense, born again. When a sinner is born of God the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God is planted in the heart of those who receive it and it continues to grow and as these grow in the heart it changes the life of the person that it is growing in and will continue to grow until the Lord returns or we are taken to be with him through death.

**NOTE:** the growth of the seed depends like any earthly seed on the sunshine, water and amount of nourishment that seed gets, likewise the spiritual seed of God needs spiritual nourishment to grow.

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## 1 JOHN 4:7-8

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### **Everyone Who Loves is Born of God.**

- **1 John 4:7-8:** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

If anyone has ever wondered what the Spirit of God is, John in absolute clarity shines a brilliant spotlight on it in these verses by telling us, God is love this means anything that is contrary to love is contrary to the will and Spirit of God and anything done in love is not only pleasing to God, but also in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God. Jesus said:

- God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

- Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31).

James in his letter wrote:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself, you are doing well (James 2:8).

These verses show that God’s love should not only be shown to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also toward those who do not yet know God’s love and that whoever walks in love and speaks from love will radiate the Spirit of God and of Christ to everyone they come in contact with.

**Anyone who does not Love does not know God.**

The underlying message of what John is saying in these verses is that we cannot know that a person has the indwelling Spirit of God:

- By gifted oratory and speech making.
- By tremendous Scriptural knowledge.
- By special gifts or exceptional talents and such like things.

This is because even antichrists and false teachers can have these qualities, the only true way to know if someone has God’s Spirit dwelling within is by the love they show toward others. This does not mean we are always going to feel emotional love toward everyone, but rather that we show compassion, kindness, grace forgiveness toward others and help when we are able. Gossiping, slandering, degrading, demeaning and harbouring resentments, anger and any form of hatred and malice or considering others to be lessor and such like things are not acts of love and therefore not from the Spirit of God, this is the way we can tell if we have God’s Spirit dwelling in us; simply measure what we do and say against love.

**NOTE:** not one of us has the prefect love of God, our love is tainted by self, ego, pride jealousy, envy, and such like things, but if we desire to grow spiritually, we must grow in love.

Paul when speaking to the Corinthian brothers and sisters said:

- He could not address them as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh as infants in Christ and therefore fed them with milk, not solid food because they were still of the flesh, because there was jealousy and strife among them since they were behaving only in a merely human way (1 Cor. 3:1-3).

Milk in this context is not about doctrine, but about character. Paul could not speak to them as spiritual people because they lacked love. Babies feed on milk, the Corinthians needed to grow up in the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiving one another etc.). Milk is a perfect picture of those who lack love since the opposite Spirit to love is a me first attitude and the screams and cries of all babies until they get the milk, they crave clearly showing that they have a me first attitude. If they never grow out of this attitude as they grow in age and height, they remain immature humans. Likewise, we will remain infants in Christ and needing to be always feed on milk if we do not grow past behaving in a human manner and grow in love and in the fruits of the Spirit.

Paul stated:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

**NOTE:** the word know from Strong's Concordance means turning the eyes of the mind and the attention to anything by observing looking, inspecting and examining it to ascertain what must be done in any given circumstance, to know what is true or to know what must be done to get acquainted to someone. In the context of knowing God it carries the idea of knowing, understanding and perceiving what is important to the heart of God, this is the reason John says those who do not love do not know God since love is the Spirit of God.

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## 1 JOHN 5:4-5

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### **Everyone Who Has Been Born of God Overcomes the World.**

- **1 John 5:4-5:** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.<sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

To be born of God means to be delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13). It means to be converted to a new way of life and a new way of thinking.

**Overcoming the world:** does not mean overcoming everything in it or overcoming every sin and temptation nor does it mean we become perfect in righteousness. Christ did not lay down his life for us because we could conquer these things and attain a perfect state of sinlessness and righteousness, but because we couldn't. If we were able to attain to the perfect demands of the Law or attain to a state of sinlessness there would be no-need for Christ to have been crucified, his brutal, cruel and bloody death would have been pointless. This is why John says, "It is by our faith we overcome the world meaning it is by God's grace in Christ and Christ's righteousness that is imputed to us that we overcome the world in contrast to works of self-effort and adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or the keeping of religious customs and traditions to attain to righteousness that leads to eternal life. The victory John talks about is our salvation it is in our salvation that we have the victory over the world, because in Christian salvation we are saved by grace that comes by faith in Jesus Christ. This is the glory of our faith and the wonder and splendour of the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. John is saying, for those who have been born of God nothing in this world and no-one in this the world has any power over their eternal destination. Paul wrote:

- If God is for us, who has any power to condemn us, if God who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with Christ graciously give us all things pertaining to eternal life? Christ Jesus is the one who died and was raised to the right hand of God and intercedes for us so how can anyone of this world condemn God's elect to eternal death when it is God who justifies and not man (Rom. 8:31-34).

Added to this majestic glory Paul said:

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:35-39).

Nothing in the world can take a brother or sisters salvation away because salvation has nothing to do with the world whoever is born of God overcomes the world because they are saved by grace and not by self-effort or by works of the law. Providing a believer abides in their faith in Christ, the world has no power to rob them of their eternal inheritance in Christ. Nevertheless, being born again does not guarantee one's salvation because God always leaves a person with free choice even when they are saved. This means that a believer can at any time chose to deny God and turn away from Christ because God will not violate a person's will or stop them from doing what they want.

**Overcoming the world:** means, holding fast our faith in the face of temptations, troubles, hardships, sickness and persecutions, it means overcoming the power of our enemies even unto death as Christ was victorious in faith over all His enemies.

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## 1 JOHN 5:18

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### **No One who is Born of God Sins.**

- **1 John 5:18:** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

He who was born of God in the context of this verse refers to the Lord Jesus Christ because it is through faith in him that the redeemed have forgiveness of sin and the grace of God. Added to this he is our High Priest who intercedes before God and the way back to God when we are overcome with sin. Those born of God do not keep on sinning means sinning is not the natural lifestyle of Christian life and that those in Christ do not live a lifestyle of sin. Though every faithful brother and sister in Christ is motivated by the love of Christ to live a life that honours his heavenly Father not one of us attains to the perfect standard the law demands or the perfect standard of God's Holiness. Not even the best of God's children are free in thought, word, or deed of sin and no Christian who truly loves the Lord would deny that there are sins that war against spiritual life not only in their heart and mind, but also outwardly in behaviour and speech. This is why John states that the Lord protects us, because providing we abide by faith in him, we are covered by God's grace and clothed in the royal robes of Christ's righteousness. For further information concerning sinning, see the title:

- No One Born of God Keeps Sinning (1 John 3:9) (above).

Those who enter the throne of God's grace and have boldness and freedom there should while dwelling in such majestic grace forever thank God and the Lord Jesus Christ with a grateful heart that their salvation to eternal life and everlasting glory is not dependent on attaining to the perfection the law demands.

**The evil one does not touch him:** the expression the evil one embraces everything that would not only hinder those in the world coming to know the love and grace of God, but also hinder a brother or sisters' faith in the Lord. At the time of John, the title the evil one most likely referred to the following two groups:

1. The antichrists, false prophets and false teachers John talks of throughout this letter who are amongst those in the Kingdom of Christ.
2. The Jewish chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes and the Romans who aggressively set about to destroy the Christian faith.

### **Today the title the evil one would include:**

- Religious teachers who lead people away from Christ and into ungodly behaviour.
- Whoever is aggressively against Christ and his teachings.
- Those who entice brothers and sisters in Christ toward sinful temptations of the world or to forsake Christ to indulge in the luxuries and pleasures of this world.
- Any person that acts against God, against His will and against the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus by his word, by his Spirit and by his love protects those who faithfully abide in him from the evil one regardless of what form the evil may come in.

## Reasons the Faithful in Christ Aim to Keep the Law.

The spirit behind the law is love, because each law protects another human from harm, in the book of Romans Paul states: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10).

This shines a spotlight on the truth that the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from physical, financial, sexual, emotional, verbal and spiritual harm. This is why those who know God aim to keep the Law because it is the right and loving thing to do. It fulfils the Ten Commandments regarding man, and the royal law, love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31) (Jas 2:8). It pleases God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of, Jesus and the Christian faith. Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because they are saved. They understand that righteousness is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort. Though the law is splendid as a guide to understanding God's will, as a means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure nevertheless both law and grace go together, the law without the Gospel is diagnosis without remedy, but the Gospel without law is only the Good News of salvation for people who don't believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment, the law is not the Gospel, but the Gospel is not lawless (Rom. 3:19-20) (Eph. 2:13-22).

- **Micah wrote:** "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- **Isaiah says:** "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- **Jeremiah said:** "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

**Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount:** the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought, "What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person." It is all about doing right to others. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). A wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*