

JESUS IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE
He gives spiritual birth to those who are spiritually dead.
1 Peter 1:3-9

Big Idea: The new birth produces undeniable evidence in a Christian's life.

Five evidences of spiritual life characterize the new birth:

1. A life of worship (1:3ab)

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,

> Praise is based of undeniable truths of who God is and what he has done.

2 Corinthians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Right thinking about God exists for the sake of right feelings for God — in that order. Logic exists for the sake of love. Reasoning exists for the sake of rejoicing. Doctrine exists for the sake of delight. Reflection about God exists for affection for God. The head is meant to serve the heart. Knowing the truth is the basis of admiring the truth. **John Piper**

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

a. It is a spiritual birth (v. 3c).

he has caused us to be born again

> Regeneration is God imparting new spiritual life to us.

> Another term is used In (John 3:3, 7) where Jesus tells Nicodemus "You must be born again" (v. 7).

- "born again" – Lit. "To be born from above"

- The new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; Ezek. 36:26-27).

John 3:8

8 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."

Titus 3:5

He saved us through the washing of rebirth/regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

- The new birth is totally a work of God (John 1:12-13).

John 1:12-13

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

> The entire bible story can be summarized as involving Generation - creation (Gen. 2:4), Degeneration - fall (Gen. 3), and Regeneration – new creation (Matt. 19:28; Rev. 21:5).

b. It is a merciful act (v. 3a).

"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again . . ."

> God acted in mercy toward us by regenerating us.

- Mercy reveals 2 things: (1) Our desperate condition. (2) God's rescuing love.

1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ephesians 2:4–5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

c. It is a miraculous work (vv. 3c, 23; Jn. 3:3-8)

- **Through the resurrection of Christ (v. 3c).**

“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

> Christ resurrection insures our regeneration.

God has “made alive together with Christ, and raised up with him” (Eph. 2:5-6; Col 2:13).

Colossians 2:13

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- **Through the living and abiding word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).**

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;

2. A life of hope (1:3b)

a. Hope is the confident expectation that something good will happen in the future.

Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future — it expects it to happen.” **John Piper**

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

b. We possess a living hope

- **It is based upon the resurrection of Jesus.**

1 Peter 1:20–21

20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you
21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

- **It is vital, dynamic, and pervasive.**

It is vital because it needed to sustain us through this fallen world.

It is dynamic because it empowers us to persevere in various trials.

It is pervasive (or influential) because it affects our thoughts, choices, and attitudes.

- **It will be fully realized when Christ returns (vv. 5b, 7c, 9, 13).**

1 Peter 1:13

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

3. A life with purpose (1:4-5).

a. We are assured of receiving our inheritance (v. 4a)

4a to an inheritance

Romans 8:16–17

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- **God's preservation (v. 4b)**

“that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading”

- **God's power (vv. 4b-5)**

> **He is keeping our inheritance safe (v. 4c).**

“kept in heaven for you”

Matthew 6:19–21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

> **He is guarding us through faith (v. 5a).**

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

God's power protects us because his power is the means by which our faith is sustained.

Schreiner, T. R. - *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, p. 65

4. A life of refining (1:6-7).

a. Christians are not exempt from experiencing various trials (v. 6).

1 Peter 4:12

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

> **Two reasons why they were being persecuted:**

(1) They refused to worship the emperor.

(2) They refused to worship at pagan temples.

1 Peter 4:3–5

3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

b. Trials are designed to produce Christlike character and to refine our faith (v. 7).

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire -

Fruit of suffering:

- Trials produce perseverance (James 1:2-3).

James 1:2-3

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

- Trials help us to fight worldly desires (1 Pet. 4:1-2).

1 Pet. 4:1-2

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

5. A life of love and joy (1:8-9).

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

> **The new birth is characterized by love and joy for Jesus Christ.**