

HTBC Midweek Working the Word Lesson

Are you born again, really?

Introduction

As Harvest Time Bible Church moves forward in our vision to Expand, Enlarge, and Increase, we must remember that true Kingdom growth begins with transformed lives. Buildings can expand, ministries can enlarge, and attendance can increase, but God's primary concern is that people experience genuine spiritual transformation through the new birth.

Jesus never told His followers to simply gather crowds. He commanded them to make disciples. Discipleship begins with one important question: **Are you born again, really?**

Many people know about church, know Bible stories, attend services, and even participate in ministry activities. Yet Jesus taught that religious activity alone does not guarantee salvation.

The greatest growth we can experience is growing from spiritual death to spiritual life through Jesus Christ.

Foundation scripture

John 3:3 (KJV)

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus did not say a person must be educated, baptized, join a church, or become religious first. He said a person must be born again.

What does it mean to be born again?

The phrase "born again" means to receive spiritual life from God.

When Adam sinned, mankind became spiritually separated from God. Through faith in Jesus Christ, that separation is removed and a person receives a new nature.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Power point: Being born again is not turning over a new leaf.

It is receiving a new life.

It is not self-improvement.

It is spiritual transformation.

Many people try to clean up their behavior without experiencing a change of nature.

Jesus did not come merely to clean us up.

He came to make us new.

How can I know if I am really born again?

1. You have put your faith in Jesus Christ alone

Romans 10:9 (KJV)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Salvation is not based on church membership.

Salvation is not based on family heritage.

Salvation is based on faith in Jesus Christ.

Questions

Have you personally trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Or are you relying on your church attendance and good works?

2. There is evidence of a new nature

1 John 5:1 (KJV)

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

A born-again believer begins developing new desires. Not perfection. Direction. You begin wanting to know God, obey God, and please God.

Spiritual growth is evidence of new spiritual life.

If there is no desire for God, no desire for His Word, and no desire to follow Christ, we should honestly examine our hearts.

3. The Holy Spirit lives in you

Romans 8:16 (KJV)

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

One of the greatest evidences of salvation is the inward witness of the Holy Spirit.

- The Spirit convicts.
- The Spirit guides.
- The Spirit teaches.
- The Spirit comforts.
- The Spirit confirms that we belong to God.

What does a born-again disciple look like?

Acts 4:13 (KJV)

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

A disciple is someone who has been transformed by Jesus and is helping others follow Jesus.

A born-again believer:

- Loves God
- Loves people
- Loves God's Word
- Loves God's Church
- Shares Christ with others
- Makes disciples

We cannot expand the Kingdom without people being born again.

We cannot enlarge God's work without making disciples.

We cannot increase God's influence without transformed lives.

The danger of false assurance

Matthew 7:21 (KJV)

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus warned that some people would have religious experiences but never truly know Him.

This is why every believer should periodically examine their relationship with Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

The closer we walk with Jesus, the easier it becomes to recognize genuine salvation from mere religion.

God does not want us living in fear.

He wants us living in assurance based on a genuine relationship with Christ.

Faith action steps

1. Examine your relationship with Christ

Spend time this week honestly asking:

"Am I trusting Jesus alone for my salvation?"

2. Feed your new nature

Read God's Word daily.

Start with the Gospel of John.

3. Share your testimony

Tell one person this week what Jesus has done in your life.

HTBC discipleship challenge

As HTBC pursues the vision to Expand, Enlarge, and Increase, let us remember that the Kingdom expands one transformed life at a time.

The question is not:

"Do you attend church?"

"Do you know Bible verses?"

"Have you been baptized?"

The question is:

Have you truly been born again?

And if you have been born again, who are you helping become a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Healthy disciples make disciples, and that is how God's Kingdom expands, enlarges, and increases.