

# How to Have a Spiritual Birthday

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This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	5
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Chapter 1 .....	6
-----------------	---

MAN'S GREAT NEED

Chapter 2 .....	10
-----------------	----

DECISION TIME

Chapter 3 .....	15
-----------------	----

NOW THAT YOU ARE BORN AGAIN

CONCLUSION .....	21
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## INTRODUCTION

Every person born into this world has a physical birthday. At the moment of conception, we begin to function as a living person.

The Bible says that every human being goes astray as soon as he is born, speaking lies (Psalm 58:3). A child does not have to be taught to lie. He will lie to protect himself. He is not taught to steal, yet he steals food that his mother has kept for special occasions. Our sinful nature, inherited from Adam, propels us to do wrong.

Have you ever felt victimized by your desire to do evil? God has provided a beautiful solution for this problem, a permanent eternal solution.

Read on, and see how you can have a spiritual birthday.

## Chapter One

# MAN'S GREAT NEED

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5).

Every man or woman born into this world was conceived in iniquity. His own feelings, desires, and limited understanding cause him to search for fulfillment outside of God's plan. Inevitably, his search ends in utter frustration, emptiness, and defeat as he realizes that a life without God is a depraved and selfish existence. He continues to execute his free volition to sin as he goes against God and against the moral consciousness of light planted in his heart through the justice of God (John 1:9).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

God has declared this universal truth: The nature of every human life is sinful. In an attempt to cover his sin, a man puts on defense mechanisms to hide the desperate condition of

his heart, just as Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves and hide from God in the garden of Eden after they had sinned. The nagging convictions of evil desires and attitudes continue to plague him until he becomes so imprisoned with guilt and shame that he either rebels by sinning outwardly or he masks his wicked motives with defense mechanisms as a disguise for his cancerous condition.

The apostle Paul cried out in desperation:

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do” (Romans 7:18-19).

Paul not only understood the powerful web of sin, but according to Romans 8, he also understood the precious and perfect provision of Jesus Christ, who conquered sin by His death on the cross.

Man’s problem is universal. No matter what culture or socio-economic situation we find ourselves in, everyone must deal with this inescapable reality. Either we die in our sins or we accept the perfect provision for sin in the death

of the Lord Jesus Christ, who took our place of judgment on the Cross.

### Fear Factors

Many human beings live in fearful insecurity before men and inadequacy before God. Inferiority complexes and self-consciousness keep people in a cloud of confusion and discouragement. In many cases, because of deep moral convictions, an individual may put on religious garments of striving to find temporary peace through self-righteousness, human goodness, or his own code of ethics. He may strive to adjust to the standards that his family and social environment project upon him. As he conforms to the pressures, lifestyle, and expectations of the world, he is accepted by the society in which he lives.

Yet, deep within his soul man longs for a vital and intimate relationship with his Creator. Innately, there is a vacuum; emptiness gnaws at his soul destroying his emotions and dividing his will. Finally, he comes to the realization that self-righteousness and human good can never satisfy his tremendous need to know God. Piercing truths circulate in his mind:

“I am growing old, and soon I must face

death.”

“I have never experienced true happiness.”

“What is the purpose of human life?”

“What will happen after I die?”

“If heaven is real, how can I be certain that I am going there?”

Such thoughts cause him to become mentally paralyzed at the thought that the sincerity of his human nature is not enough to warrant salvation. Only God can reveal the reality of who He is to us.

Have you ever felt trapped as a victim in a fire you cannot escape? Have you ever felt as though you were plunging into a raging sea without the ability to swim? Have your hopes been drowned in the waters of life? Are you sinking deeper into despair, finding no real peace in this world’s system?

If you have tried everything in an attempt to satisfy the real person behind the fig leaves of your own invention, then stop for a moment and consider this:

The greatest hope in all the world is found in the Person of Jesus Christ.



## Chapter Two

# DECISION TIME

Dear Reader, I have described the attitudes and thoughts that we have all experienced as we search for the truth. Even now, your heart is crying out, “This is true. Life is futile—but what is the answer?” Only God can satisfy. All this time you have been searching for Him. God’s great compassion and love has given us the answer through the Bible, the Word of God. You need to have a spiritual birthday through which you can be born again, into the kingdom of God!

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ was God (2 Peter 1:1). He put on a human body and came from heaven into this world to become sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). He paid the wages of our sin by dying in our place, on the cross. He shed His precious blood

on Calvary's tree, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He ascended into heaven and appeared before His Father's throne. The justice of God the Father was satisfied because "...by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 9:12).

God has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all who will humble themselves and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He has removed your guilt and forgiven your sins. God has erased all of your past, present, and future sins.

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

### What Does It Mean to "Believe On" Jesus Christ?

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Many people have asked, "What does it really mean to 'believe on' the Lord Jesus Christ?" The Greek word for "believe" is *pisteuo*. Strong's Concordance says that "to believe" on Christ

means to have faith in and to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ. Vine's Expository Dictionary of the New Testament defines the verb "to believe" as "to be persuaded of, to place confidence in, and to trust wholly." Vine also points out that to "believe" indicates "a total reliance upon the Lord, not mere credence." Faith (pistis in the Greek) is absolute dependence in receptivity to His character, His Word, His work, and His ability. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon says that this faith is the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, and that He is the provider and giver of salvation through Jesus Christ. Believing by faith, we give up our selves to Jesus Christ.

It is so important for us to understand that to "believe on the Lord" is not just to give lip service. It means to abandon our life to Him. Knowledge about God will never bring salvation. Salvation comes when we receive His life.

### Open the Door

Revelation 3:20 says that He is knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to come in. Open the door now and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life. At this very moment He will save your soul and give you the gift of eternal life. The ab-

solite integrity of the Word of God, spoken by Jesus Christ in John 10:28, promises, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." You may come to the Son of God without guilt or condemnation. Consider the amazing truth that Christ died in your place when you were "without strength" (Romans 5:6), while you were dead in your sins. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Remember that Christ died for you while you were His enemy. He will never fail you because through His death He has made you His friend (John 15:15).

God will not place you on probation; you do not have to wait until your behavior is "good enough." You must only accept what Christ has done for you. As a perfect, sinless man and as a perfect, holy, and righteous God, Jesus shed His blood for you. When you place your trust in His eternal redemption, you will be saved.

This very hour, wherever you are, you can have a spiritual birthday. God the Father will welcome you home through the expression of the love of His Son Jesus Christ. He will give you joy in the Holy Spirit, who will enlighten

your understanding of the Bible. He will reveal the nature and character of God to your heart, and you will know who He is. Receive Jesus Christ into your heart by grace through faith. “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Ask Him to become your personal Savior. Simply say:

Dear Father, I know that I am a sinner and that there is nothing I can do to save myself. I do not deserve anything, but I am believing by faith that you died for me at Calvary. I now ask you to forgive my sins and come into my heart. Lord, I give you my life, knowing that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. Amen.

Now write down today’s date:

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This is the date of your spiritual birthday.

As you experience the thrill of having Jesus Christ come to dwell in your heart, you will begin a new, dynamic relationship with a living God!

## Chapter Three

# NOW THAT YOU ARE BORN AGAIN

At the moment you prayed for salvation, the angels in heaven rejoiced (Luke 15:7). The Father has given you a new, divine nature that will now begin to take over your life. He gives you spiritual clothing and covers the nakedness of your soul. He no longer remembers your sins (Hebrews 8:12). You can know for certain that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13), for "... this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11).

Take your first step in His eternal purpose for your life. Confess to someone that you have received Him as Lord and Savior. God will honor you when you confess Him to others. The Word of God says in Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Make a commitment in your heart to

follow Christ by faith, in obedience to His Word. He will never leave you or forsake you. He will go with you always, even to the end of the world (Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20). These are eternal promises from the Word of God that cannot lie. You can build your spiritual house on a Rock rather than on sand, having confidence that heaven and earth will pass away, but His words shall not pass away (Matthew 24:35). Trust in the integrity of the Word of God, for it is now your hope, which is the anchor of your soul (Hebrews 6:19).

### What Happened When I Became Born Again?

The moment that you called upon the Lord, the Holy Spirit regenerated you. You are now a brand-new creature in Christ. “Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). God gave you a new heart, a cleansed conscience, and a loving, meaningful purpose for living. You will now be able to understand what it means to be able to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Trust Jesus Christ, the living God, to help you. He will teach, guide, and motivate you with His infinite capacity. He

will mobilize you with His divine resources. Remember, God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Hebrews 13:8).

### What Shall I Discover?

You will discover that you can live in His peace. “And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Continually, you can receive the surpassing love of Christ, “which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:19). Your heart is now purified by faith (Acts 15:9), and your mind is constantly being renewed by the freshness of your obedience to the inspiring promises of His written Word.

No longer will you be victimized by a complex social structure. Now you can freely receive an abundant life through fellowship with a living God, the King of kings who rules and reigns in your heart! The encouragement and comfort of other believers who make up the Body of Christ will inspire your faith, drawing you closer to the Lord through His family on earth.

Imagine that God, Himself, through His faithfulness, “hath chosen us in Him before the



foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4). All the promises in the Word of God—more than seven thousand promises—belong to you as His child. Second Peter 1:4 declares, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Not one word of His good promise will fall to the ground (1 Kings 8:56). All the promises of God, in Him, are “Yes!” and in Him “Amen!” (2 Corinthians 1:20). Come and learn of Him—the One who is the God of all promises, who has victoriously ascended into heaven so that you might inherit the treasures of eternal life!

### How Can I Grow as a Christian?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38).

As you follow Jesus Christ, do not hold back. Abandon yourself to Him as you respond to His love. Fill your frame of reference—the memory center of your mind—with the Word of God, and “be transformed by the renewing of

your mind” (Romans 12:2). Respond to the promises of Christ by studying His precious Word. Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your mind with God’s thoughts and desires for your life. As you learn to abide in Christ, His life will overflow through you as “rivers of living water” (John 7:38). Others will be blessed as you share the message of His glorious salvation with those who do not yet know Him. Remember Christ’s words: “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

### What Steps Should I Take to Get to Know the Lord?

“Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8).

1. Begin by reading the Gospel of John in the New Testament of your Bible. (Before you read, pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten your understanding of the Word of God.)

2. Ask God to lead you to a specific local church, one that teaches the pure Word of God. Begin to serve God by being faithful to Him in the local assembly (Hebrews 10:22-25).

3. Purpose to fellowship with other Chris-

tians so that you can receive the life of Christ through His Corporate Body.

4. Set aside time each day to read the Word of God and to pray. “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

5. Pray that God would lead you into His perfect will and that He would increase your capacity to know and serve Him by faith in obedience to His Word.

If you write to us or call, we would be glad to send you a free inspirational packet that will motivate you to grow in Christ.

## CONCLUSION

It is our prayer that you will receive all that God wants to bless you with in your new life in Christ. Please write to us soon and tell us of your decision to be saved. We want to pray for you and help you to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, you can never lose your salvation for you have been “bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20 and 7:23). The great price for your salvation was the blood of the Son of God who died on Calvary in your place. We rejoice with you and with the angels, for you now have eternal life! Hold fast to this promise:

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).