

which is born of the flesh is flesh; that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3, 6). As your first, fleshly, birth is the result of what someone other than you did, so your new, spiritual birth is entirely the result of what God does within you when you call upon Him. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

At the very instant you repent, turning to God from sin, trusting Christ and what He did for you; placing your eternal destiny entirely upon Him, you will be born again! The spiritual dimension of yourself will spring into new life and you will forever be that complete person you long to be. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

If you will decide now to trust Christ for eternal spiritual life, you can ask Him to save you in a simple prayer. When you do that please write your name here and let us know!

—Prepared by Bill Johnson



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## What Happened?

Have you ever felt like a whole dimension of yourself is just not there? Is there sometimes a crying out from within you for something you simply cannot explain?

This feeling is common among people. From the first man, Adam, we all reach a point at an early age when we become more and more aware that something has happened!

From the time when we learn the difference between right and wrong, something seems very wrong. *"You are dead in your trespasses and sins,"* (Ephesians 2:1).

There was a time in early childhood when you were alive to God, then you began to understand the difference between right and wrong. It was at that point you became responsible to God. *"For I was alive without the law once, but when the commandment came I died"* (Romans 7:9). This is called "spiritual death." Paul wrote about it in Romans chapter 7.

## How Did It Happen?

It all began in the Garden of Eden where God had placed Adam and Eve. They were alive in every dimension; mental, physical and spiritual. They had daily contact with God. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:16, 17).

They both disobeyed this command. Immediately they both died; not physically, but spiritually. They

were cut off from God. Their physical bodies began to age and, in due time, physical death also resulted from their sin. *"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12). *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"* (Psalm 51:5). *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

## What Has Been Done About It?

Since you are dead in your sins there is nothing you can do about it. But God did something. He came as Jesus Christ and paid the price for your sin and mine. *"In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:1, 14).

He came to enable all who were dead in sins to be born again unto eternal life. *" . . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"* (John 5:24).

## What Will You Do?

As surely as you know that something has happened to cause your spiritual death, so you can be assured that God has given you a new birth, bringing spiritual life. *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That*