

## BORN AGAIN: GOD'S WORK IN A BELIEVER

*The Bible clearly teaches that all those who believe the gospel experience a supernatural change by God's grace and the work of God's Spirit. This lesson highlights some of the facets of that divine work in the hearts of saved sinners.*

### GOD AND GRACE

Grace is unmerited favor, a free gift someone receives from another. The beginning, middle, and end of the Christian life is all of grace.

1. In **Eph 2:8-9**, by what are we saved? What was not our own doing?

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2. In **Rom 5:1-2**, what is our ongoing relationship to God's grace?

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3. According to **Gal 3:3**, how did we begin? How are *not* perfected?

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➤ The "flesh" refers to our own striving or own work apart from God's grace.

### REGENERATION

The Bible teaches that true Christians are "born again." This is a new spiritual principle God has graciously worked in them through the Holy Spirit.

1. In **John 3:3** Jesus says that what is necessary for eternal life?

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2. How do people experience regeneration (or are "born") in **John 1:12**? Which person of the Trinity is responsible for this new birth in **John 3:8**?

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3. **First Peter 1:3-5** tells us God regenerated us because of his "great mercy." To what spiritual benefits are we born again?

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4. *By and through* what are we kept in this state according to **1 Pet 1:3-5**?

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➤ Do not miss this important point. God *eternally keeps* those who are his.

### UNION WITH CHRIST

The Bible also teaches that Christians are spiritually united to Christ by faith, and from that relationship receive profound spiritual benefits.

1. What phrase in **Rom 8:1** describes Christians? What do they *not* face?

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2. According to **1 Cor 15:22**, what is the difference between being "in Adam" and being "in Christ"? To what future event does this refer (see **v. 21**)?

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3. What does being "in Christ" make us in **2 Cor 5:17**?

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4. The fruit of union with Christ in **2 Cor 5:18-19** is reconciliation with God. Why is reconciliation with God necessary (see esp. **v. 19**)?

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### ADOPTION IN CHRIST

Another benefit of God's love and grace is adoption, through which we are brought into his household and given a right to the privileges of sons of God.

1. Read **1 John 3:1**. What are believers called?

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2. What does the first word of **1 John 3:1** tell us about this adoption?

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3. According to **1 John 3:2-3**, what is the outcome of this adoption?

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4. Through whom does **Eph 1:5** ground our adoption? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In **Rom 8:17**, what else are we besides God's children? With whom?

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6. **Galatians 4:6-7** says the Spirit moves us to say "Abba, Father" to God. "Abba" is another word for "Daddy." What kind of an expression is this?

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### PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST

The Bible teaches in passages like the parable of the sower (Matt 13:1-9; 18-23) that some who claim to believe fall away. Yet true believers receive God's word, persevere, and bear fruit. God keeps his children in his grace to the end.

1. According to **Colossians 1:1-23**, what is true of the blameless (esp. **v. 23**)?

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2. In **John 10:28**, who gives us eternal life? Who can take it away?

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3. Read **1 Cor 1:7-9**. What action does Christ undertake in **v. 8** for his own?

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4. For how long and in what state does he sustain them? How does **v. 9** describe God? Whose work is salvation?

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5. What does God know in **2 Tim 2:19**? What else is true of such people?

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*For more on the results of God's work of regenerating grace in a believer, read 1 John.*