

**Are You  
Born Again -**

**or Are You Stillborn?**



# Are You Born Again – Or Are You *Stillborn*?

New birth connotes life and vitality, it indicates movement of some sort. A birth is the culmination of the conception and gestation period of what is expected to be another offspring. It is a bringing of new life into the world. If a fetus has gone through the formative months and then, by some fluke of nature, lost its spark of life before delivery, it is not a new birth; it is a stillborn or lifeless delivery. It is not a birth.

By the same token, if a person claims to have been spiritually born again, he has to show some signs of life. “Life” in this instance does not mean a lot of whooping and carrying on (which are all right in their place) nor does it involve the latest dance step that is brought into the church world from the other world outside the church’s purview. Anyone who is of the right temperament can do the shout and dance the dance, but can they live the life? What signs of life should the new convert exhibit?

Well, what does the Word of God say about it? Paul writes in Rom 8:13-14 RSV:

“13 for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

That seems plain enough. If you are a new believer in Christ, but live a life centered on fleshly desires, you are stillborn; you are not a newborn creature as yet.

So Paul further urges us in Eph 4:22-24 RSV,

“22 Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts,

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your minds,

24 and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

This too is clear and simple. You are exhorted to desert your “former manner of life” and to adopt a new way of thinking and acting. Now of course you cannot do this of your own will. You can will to do it, but then you must turn to God to truly renew the spirit of your mind and to give you the new nature that comes only with the infilling of His Spirit. When the Holy Spirit enters you heart you will be alive. You will be born again.

If you at one time were supposedly born again and it seems it did not “take,” just hearken to the two scriptures above. If you follow the exhortations given there, you will know you are born again and the Church and the world will know it also. It is so simple, and yet I remind you, you cannot do it on your own: you **MUST** give all you are and all you have to Christ. Christ has done what He could. He lived for you; died for you; He touched and softened your hard heart. Now He is eagerly waiting for you to make the next and decisive move. Tell Jesus you need Him and want Him to come into your life. He has never yet turned away a penitent sinner.

Jesus said (John 10.10), “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”

It’s time to leave the ranks of the “living dead” – the spiritual zombies – and take on the life of the Holy Spirit. There is so much more Living for you to do. Now is the best time for you to start.

- Aaron J. Smith