
The Pursuit of Holiness

Am I Born Again?

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, February 18, 2018*

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” **1 Peter 1:22–2:3, ESV**

The New Birth Produces ...

An Unhypocritical Love for Other Believers

The New Birth Is an Imperishable Birth

A Changed Life in Christ Should Also Be Evidenced by...

1. A Connected Life with God's People

"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?" **2 Corinthians 6:14–15, NLT**

“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... and all were made to drink of one Spirit... But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” **1 Corinthians 12:13, 18,27, ESV**

There Is No Strength of The Spirit Apart from Living
in Community with God's People

2. A Changed Relationship with God's People

Loving One Another Is Not Just a Good Thing,
It Is The 2nd Greatest Commandment

Love in The NT Is A Test of Authentic Faith in Christ

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” *1 John 4:7–8, ESV*

Repentance from Sin

^{2:1}So put away all malice and all **deceit** and hypocrisy and envy and all slander

“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”
Ephesians 4:22–24, NLT

Stop Doing What Doesn't Work and Focus on What Does Work

3 Parts of Repentance:

Confession

Letting Go of

Turning Away From

A Desire for Spiritual Growth

^{2:2} Like newborn infants, **long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**“who have tasted the goodness of the word of God
and the power
of the age to come” Hebrews 6:5, NLT**

Do I Have A Longing for The Things of God That
Compels Me to Be Saturated in The Things of God?

If I Do Not Long for Spiritual Growth I Am Living
Saturated
in The Things of The World

How Do I Turn My Life Around?

Get Connected

Get Growing

Get Going