

# **The New Birth Experience**

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## Introduction

The encounter between Jesus and a Pharisee called Nicodemus in John 3 reveals one of the greatest mysteries of all times. After witnessing the power of God working in Jesus through supernatural signs and wonders, Nicodemus was convinced that there is something much deeper about Jesus' ministry he needed to know. Having been convicted by the Power of the Holy Spirit, Nicodemus could not find sleep. Therefore, he approached Jesus at night to inquire about His mission on earth and to understand the purpose of Jesus' works. During the inquiry process, Jesus revealed something special to Nicodemus about His mission and work on earth. He said, *"Most Assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3).

That night, Nicodemus learned that one has to be born again to enter the kingdom of God but he did not understand what Jesus meant. As a matter of fact, no one could understand such a thing without a clear explanation. It makes no sense to tell a natural human being that he or she has to be born again. That does not make any sense at all. Therefore, Nicodemus asked Jesus *"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* (John 3:4).

Nicodemus' question is asked by many unbelievers today. They do not understand what Jesus means by being born again. Even among some professing Christians, the mystery of being born again is far from being sufficiently understood. Others have completely misinterpreted Jesus' words to mean something else.

In this book, you will learn about the mystery of being born again as revealed in the Bible. You will understand that it is truly possible to be born again in this world as Jesus says. You will also learn that the purpose of your life revolves around this mystery and that if you miss

being born again, you will miss the most important things God reserved for you.

Contrary to what sceptics, critics and many non-Christian scientists want us to believe, the New Birth Experience is a reality. Although mysterious, it is attainable. Indeed, it is the greatest and sweetest experience one can ever live in this life.

The next few chapters will walk you through the required knowledge and steps to be born again. It is a process of heart sweetening. Being born again is amazing indeed but remember that it is something that has to be experienced or lived. You have to apply the knowledge you will acquire in this book in your life to live a fulfilled born-again life.

The New Birth Experience is the most important message in this world recorded in the Bible. Later on, you will discover that it is a gift from God. It is a terrible thing to miss such a gift. I know you will not miss it. The simple fact that you came across this book is an indication that you are on the right track and a sincere inquirer. May the Good Lord bless you as you read in Jesus Name!

## **Chapter 1**

### **In The Beginning**

Many people attempt to explain the origin of the world and everything in it through their adherence to particular worldviews. There are many worldviews in this current world. A worldview is simply a particular way of seeing the world and its unfolding events. Many people claim that they are not adherents of any particular worldview but that is an illusion. Everyone believes in something and holds to certain values whether good or bad. Despite the abundance of worldviews in the world, all can be classified under two main categories including; those who believe that there is a Supreme Creator and Designer of the universe and those who do not believe in a Supreme Intelligence or who fail to recognize the superiority of this Supreme Intelligence through compromise and lack of objectivity.

Those in the first category who believe in a Supreme Intelligence are known as Christians. These include all true Bible-believing Christians irrespective of their denominational affinity, who do not compromise God's revelations recorded in the bible in thoughts and deeds. Those in the second category are all non-Christians or those who claim to be Christians but compromise God's revelations. These include Atheists, human theories, Radicals, Science alone activists, Evolutionists, people from other religions such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc., and all those who compromise the truth such as cultists, occultists, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, false prophets and teachers and others who do not take the Word of God in the Bible seriously.

All these uncountable worldviews have attempted to explain the origin of the universe and the world. One of the biggest non-Christian group of people with a particular worldview is known as Evolutionists.

Many Evolutionists don't believe in a Master Designer. They claim that everything appeared from nothing. This foundational belief adhered to by Evolutionists and taught in the Theory of Evolution has no substantial proof. No Evolutionists has sufficiently proven how everything suddenly appeared from nothing and how variations occur in species to produce entirely new ones.

*“The evolutionist”, says Harold, “has overlooked one vitally important principle; namely: All the known variations take place within the kinds; there is no evidence for the change from one kind to another entirely new one. For instance, millions of variations might take place in rabbits, but they would still be rabbits. Many changes occur in foxes, but they remain foxes. Rats are still rats; guinea pigs are still guinea pigs. No amount of change is known by which one of these types can be changed into another”* (Harold W. Clark, 1947).

The foundational assumptions of the Theory of Evolution are based on endless speculations which have many times been proven false by genuine scientific research. For instance, the evolutionary assumption that ‘randomness and blind chance must produce a net increase in the order and complexity seen in the universe’ has been proven to be the contrary - that is, ‘decrease and destruction of order in the theory of probability, information sciences, computer technology, thermodynamics, and the study of biological mutations’ (Dr. Johnson C. Philips & Dr. Saneech Scherian).

The greatest irony of living your life as an Evolutionists is that you will finally believe that life makes no sense. This is the greatest form of intellectual dogmatism. Evolutionists have either failed or voluntarily refused to analyse the pieces of evidence in Christianity. Evolution, however, embeds little truths in its physical scientific research which

have instead helped in establishing the claims God-fearing scientists promote.

Other well-known worldviews such as Buddhism and Islam have explanations for the origin of the world and everything in it.

Due to their belief in many gods, Buddhists attribute creation to natural causes rather than a Supreme Intelligence. In Buddhism, it is all about infiniteness. There is no such thing as a starting and ending point.

Muslims, on the other hand, have some similarities in their explanation of the origin of the universe to Christians. Nevertheless, by adhering to the satanic revelations of their prophet Mohamed, Muslims rely on works for salvation. The biggest problem with both Islam and Buddhism is that these religions have no good solution for sin and the fate of the world.

In Christianity, God reveals that He is that Supreme Intelligence that created the world and everything seen and unseen. Genesis 1:1 reveals that ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah saying *“For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist...”* (Isaiah 66:2). In Nehemiah 9:6, it is recorded *“You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all...”*. The natural evidence of creation is seen all over through inexplicable design. Creation is sufficiently demonstrated through historical and archaeological pieces of evidence. All these pieces of evidence are available for all to freely analyse to determine the genuineness of the Christian faith.

One of the arguments raised by Atheists is that if God exists, there would be no sin or suffering in the world. In other words, God would have created us like robots. Human beings and the world would have been programmed by God to maintain a certain order.

The Bible, however, reveals that God created human beings with a certain degree of freedom to make free choices and decisions for themselves. By instructing Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17), God drew the demarcation line to determine what they could exercise their willpower to do and not to do.

*“The most that we can say is that in the world that God created, evil was a possibility but not a necessity... Here is the extent of God’s responsibility for evil: He is responsible for its possibility, but not its actuality. God created the world with neither moral evil nor natural evil existing in it. But He did create free-will beings for whom moral evil was a possibility. In the exercise of their freedom, these beings introduced moral evil into the world, with natural evil following from it as its consequences”* (Jack Cottrell, 2000).

Rebellion is the act of disobeying God’s instructions. Rebellion does not have its origin on earth. Rather, its origin is in heaven. In Revelation 7:12-9, Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19, we learn that Satan, also called Lucifer at the time, led a rebellion in heaven. Satan is one of God’s created angels. He was beautiful and gifted by God in many ways. With time, he grew in pride and considered an illusionary possibility of dethroning God.

We learn from the Bible that God sent a group of angels led by Angel Michael to fight against one-third of the rebellious angels in heaven that Satan had succeeded in mobilizing against God.

Another important lesson to learn from this is that angels were also created by God with a certain degree of freedom to make choices and decisions. Angels can also decide to obey God instructions or not. One-third of angels created by God and led by Satan refused to obey God instructions and engaged in rebellion against Him. Satan and his rebellious friends were defeated by Michael’s group.



God is holy, pure and completely spotless. There is no sign of sin in Him. God is completely stainless and so is His dwelling place. It is not possible for God and sin to cohabitate. Sin has a huge consequence which is separation from God. Ever since Satan and his friends rebelled and sinned against God, they have forever been separated from Him.

Moreover, since God cannot dwell in the same place with sin, it was certain that Satan and his companions could not continue to live in a pure place such as heaven. Therefore, God created a special place called hell for all those who rebelled against Him. Hell was primarily created for Satan and his companions.

According to many Biblical verses, hell is located somewhere in the centre of the earth (Psalm 63:9, proverb 1:12, Ezekiel 26:20-21, Isaiah 14:15). It is a place of torment and agony for all rebels. The pain in hell cannot be fully described with human knowledge. The Bible reveals that Satan's powers were not taken from him when he was cast in hell. Hence, Satan could move from hell to other parts of the earth.

In the Book of Job, it is recorded *“And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?”* So Satan answered the Lord and said, *“From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”* (Job 1:7). Satan is darkness and evil. He has nothing to do with purity and light. He is the contrary of God and his rebellious friends who are now called demons are likewise.

Satan moved around the earth without being able to impact it. The earth God created was beautiful and pure. In fact, God in His own words described creation as *“very good”* (Genesis 1:31). The earth was a holy place and completely stainless.

*“A bit of thoughtful meditation will lead one to the conclusion that when God declared the earth to be “very good,” there must have been infinite variety and perfection of beauty. Man might pronounce a thing very*

*good when his crude sense of values would admit of much imperfection. But the divine benediction upon the newly created earth, we must admit, involves more than we can imagine in variety, interest, and wealth of plant and animal life” (Harold W. Clark, 1947).*

Not only was the earth pure and holy, it was completely under the power of Adam and Eve. God gave them dominion over everything on earth after creation (Genesis 1:26). Haven become darkness and sinful, Satan and his companions could have no fellowship on a pure earth created by God nor heaven from which they were cast away.

Nevertheless, with his craftiness, seducing and deceptive ideas, Satan understood that the only way he could influence the earth was to cause humans to willfully rebel like he did. Satan knew that if he succeeds in causing humans to also wilfully rebel against God, humans would be compatible with him and also become enemies of God.

If humans also rebelled, the human race would be affected by sin and the earth would be polluted with iniquity. Hence, he deceived Eve and her husband to disobey God’s instruction by eating from the tree God commanded them not to eat. Humans and the earth were cursed as a result of their rebellion and disobedience. Moreover, like Satan and his companions (demons), humans were also separated from God due to sin and destined to hell (the destination of all rebels or disobedient human beings and angels).

Therefore, through rebellion, all humans beings are also destined to end up in hell. The current earth is contaminated with sin. No created thing has been spared from sin’s contamination. The beauty of the earth is continuously deteriorating and its glittering nature is fading away.

Those who talk about creating a beautiful and good world are living a profound illusion. Things will never be the same again. Humanity has disobeyed God through rebellion and is contaminated with sin. Just like

Satan and his rebellious friends, all human beings were separated from God after their rebellion. The fate and final destination of all human beings on earth without exception is hell.

Evil is evident everywhere. No form of sustainable theory is perfect enough to save the earth. The most we can do is develop temporary mechanisms to sustain life. Sooner or later, the situation will be above us. May the Lord have mercy!

## Chapter 2

### The Current State Of Humans And The World

Many a philosopher today claim to generate concrete solutions to save humanity and the world. In science, enormous efforts are put in the area of medicine with the aim of improving the health sector. Complex scientific research projects are sponsored all over the world in all sectors with the aim of improving the well-being of human beings.

Despite all these enormous efforts, the state of the world is worsening. Terrorist movements are emerging from every corner. There are national, tribal and religious conflicts in all continents. The richer countries oppress the poorer ones and ensure world policies are in favour of the rich. Freedom of speech and opinions are restricted in many countries of the world. Many governments and even so-called superpower nations deceive their populations to believe lies. There is deliberate manipulation of opinions with the aim of promoting wicked agendas. Godly moral values are intentionally trampled underfoot in favour of modernism and relativity.

This is the state of the world today. A horrible and unjust place far from the 'very good', stable and peaceful world God created in the beginning. Human beings have borrowed the path of non-stop learning and misinterpretation. In their learning journey, human beings have transformed the world into a place where all moral absolutes are dismissed in favour of non-absolute presuppositions. This situation is well described by Martin Haan in his book titled *Right and Wrong, A Case For Moral Absolutes* "*Many believe they are right, but not that others are wrong*" (Martin R. De Haan II, 2002).

Yes, everyone wants to be a master of moral norms. Everyone wants his ideas and laws to prevail. Everyone wants to be the captain of the

troop. Everyone has his own views and interpretations of events. Like sheep without a shepherd, everyone is going in his own direction. This confirms the words of the prophet Isaiah *“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way...”* (Isaiah 53:6). This is the exact situation of the world. A group of people moving this way, another group that way and so on.

Yet, the ungodly and ignorant politicians proclaim sweet speeches of world peace. He who does not understand the reality is deceived by expressions such as sustainable development and innovation. Little do they understand that such concepts have tremendous limitations in this current world.

In reality, many people lack the most basic revelations to finally realize that as of the way things are right now, human beings are in control of very little. This ignorance and lack of willingness to learn push people to work harder with the illusionary hope that the world and things will become better one day. Common sense alone should help one see that purely human endeavours to save humanity are insignificantly impactful.

Medical inventions have not changed God’s words spoken more than two thousand years ago that those who live long in this world will barely make it to 120 years. Most people die before one hundred years. The prophet reminds us that *“...all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away...”* (Isaiah 64:6).

How did the world reach this state? Evidently, because humans are no longer in control of the world as they did in the days of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They lost that authority given to them by God through rebellion and disobedience towards Him. Their rebellion caused them to become sinful. As a result of being contaminated with sin, they

became compatible with Satan's schemes and embraced all sorts of satanic agendas and were separated from God.

Humans and all their descendants became very wicked. The whole human race was trapped in a cycle of evil and that has continued to this day. In the book of Genesis, we read '...the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart' (Genesis 6:5-6).

The earth and everything in it was contaminated by satanic ideas to an extent that God was no longer pleased with what he created. Worldly scientists and especially Evolutionists struggle to explain the lack of authority and capacity of humans to significantly influence the world in a positive way.

In his attempt to establish a solid foundation for the earth and human degradation, Harold states *"POPULAR science is puzzled over many things, for it fails to reckon with two fundamental principles: (1) that the earth was created perfect, and (2) that the advent of sin brought death and degeneration upon all living things. Not only were the results of sin seen in the fall of man and his loss of dominion over nature, but every living creature suffered from the curse in two ways. In the first place, the usurper, Satan, was unable to control the kingdom he had seized; in the second place, he deliberately set about to corrupt and destroy. Only in the light of these facts can we understand what has happened to plants and animals since sin came into the world"* (Harold W. Clark, 1947).

Contrary to the Evolutionists and Atheists, Creationists (those who believe in a supreme design intelligence known as God) have sufficient and verifiable explanations for variations in plants and animal species and human habits after sin's contamination.

*“Some undesirable features in nature seem to be but the natural results of degeneracy. Thorns and thistles are merely modified leaves and stems. Poisonous plants have been produced by changes in the chemical products formed within their tissues. Weeds are nothing more than plants that have developed the ability of growing at the expense of more desirable kinds while furnishing nothing of particular value in the form of flowers, fruit, or seeds... It is likely that the carnivorous habit arose as a change in habits of certain animals... Some most remarkable adjustments between animals have produced parasites... Many examples of perverted instincts may be observed in nature. The wild animal that kills for pleasure is certainly not following any law of nature implanted by the Creator. On all sides we witness death and destruction as the result of lawful instincts that have been turned into wrong channels... Plainly these were not intended in the beginning” (Harold W. Clark, 1947).*

Dependence on purely scientific models and inventions will not help humanity to solve the issues in this world. As a matter of fact, as sophisticated scientific inventions increase, so is the danger of living in this world. Military capacity has reached the state in which it can cause indescribable harm to the earth. The food we eat is constantly being modified and infected with biochemicals. The natural environments created by God are continuously being replaced by cities and complex artificial infrastructure. The few available resources are extracted for selfish motives and gain and not for the effective promotion of the well-being of mankind.

Despite all attempts to fix the world's problems, humans are desperate for concrete answers and results. The world is dominated by injustice and inequalities. Efforts invested so far are obviously not in favour of a better world people dream of. The idea that humans are able to solve their problems is mere pride, deception and a fairy tale.



Human beings have no solution for sin, neither do they have solutions for the degrading nature of humanity, plants and animal species. The constant reliance on purely human doctrines and concepts will no doubt lead humanity to fatal destruction.

In the current state of affairs, the ship transporting humanity is heading straight into the iceberg. Humans are held captive by Satan and have lost their dominion to him. They have no abilities or power in themselves to set themselves free from Satan's schemes. Humans since the days of Adam and Eve's sin are all contaminated by evil and have sold their souls to the devil. The evidence is clear in the world today. Everyone is going his or her own way. Our world of today is a complete disorderly and unjust place to live in.

In fact, a short while after humanity sinned in the Garden of Eden, the population of the earth at that time was extremely sinful. The extent of evil in the world in those days led God to destroy humans and animal species that were on earth except those who entered Noah's Ark (Genesis 6:7-8:22). From the days of Noah until this day, human beings have multiplied to more than seven billion on the earth. Humanity and the earth are still suffering from indescribable evil today.

There are no signs that human well-being and the earth will be any better in the next ten to one thousand centuries. Hence, the need for humans to look beyond purely human concepts and ideologies for concrete solutions to their problems.



## **Chapter 3**

### **The Alpha And The Omega**

Given the inability of all human beings and attempts to solve their problems or significantly improve human well-being, concrete solutions have to come from elsewhere. There are many people who continue to praise and preach science as an ultimate field to depend on for solutions.

There is no doubt that scientific inventions have significantly contributed to few aspects of human well-being. For instance, inventions in the area of communication and transportation have given birth to communication tools such as mobile phones, sophisticated computers and machines, cars, boats and planes. All these different inventions have transformed the world into a small village where no place seems to be too far or inaccessible to humans.

However, innovations and inventions in communication and transportation are also responsible for the development of the most sophisticated war weapons on the market, pollution, deforestation, scamming and thefts as well as spying. The advantages of these inventions are completely neutralized by their disadvantages. Although there seems to be an improvement in terms of new inventions, many people do not realize that the contrary effects of those inventions are even greater. Instead of taking humanity further, these inventions seem to take humans many steps behind in an overall analysis.

The world would become better and a good place to live in through science only if those scientific inventions are without side effects. That is, however, an illusion. That is an impossible state for human inventions to attain in this current world. Despite their ability to invent and create, the inventions and creativity of human beings only lead them to self-destruction and accelerated self-degradation.

Why? Well, simply because like Satan after his rebellion, many human natural gifts were not taken away from them. However, their creativity and inventions are polluted with evil and satanic agendas.

Therefore, there is nothing good humanity can do for itself despite the vast array of inventions. No matter how well intended purely human inventions are, Satan will use them to his advantage because he is in control. The human race is indeed working for Satan and not for God. That is why nothing good can ever come out of purely humanly inspired solutions.

Hence, we cannot rely on purely human concepts for concrete solutions to the human problems. In fact, God Himself supports the fact that human beings should not be trusted when He says *“Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord...”* (Jeremiah 17:5).

God makes it very clear that those who trust in purely human principles and concepts are cursed. Nothing good can come out of people who are living in a curse. After carefully studying and trying to understand the purpose of the schemes and endeavours of humans on earth, the Ecclesiast arrived at a pertinent conclusion that all is vanity and grasping for the wind. All purely human inventions and endeavours do not profit humanity in any concrete way (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Creationists affirm that God, the Supreme Designer and Greatest Intelligence, is the objective source and solid foundation for knowledge, reason and rationality. The creationists, therefore, do not violate the basic laws of logic and reason. The Bible never discourages human beings to obtain understanding, knowledge and wisdom provided they do so with a clear understanding that God is the source of the truth (Proverbs 1:7, Job 28:28).

Only in the light of Godly fear can humans correctly promote discernment and test the knowledge they obtain through exploration (Acts 17:11; Colossians 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Hence, the creationist's foundational assertions are supported by sufficient faith and reason (pieces of evidence and facts).

Thousands of Christian preachers, teachers, evangelists and disciples work day and night to help the natural minds to understand the limits of reason alone. Many Christian missionaries have sacrificed precious careers, material possessions and wealth in order to be used by God to preach the importance of faith and reason in this world.

The message is very clear – there is nothing humans can do to repair their relationship with God and to attain perfection. Humans have been utterly rejected by God after their stain of sin. Nothing good can come out of humanity and their reasoning. Many books have been written and research works conducted by Atheists and non-believers in the world but their work has only been used by Satan to advance his evil schemes. The fuel that keeps the natural human to toil hard with a false hope of obtaining ultimate satisfaction is pride. Keep pride away and you have removed the greatest stumbling block to become wise.

In the business and corporate worlds, terms and concepts such as self-confidence, motivation, courage, self-determination and the like are often employed to push people to work harder. Only after their little personal achievements do they realize that all their toil and labour was insignificant and meaningless.

The logic and reasoning behind their research and works are incomplete and inaccurate. Their work is void of a Godly touch. As a consequence, humanity can only get worse by depending on non-Godly concepts.

*“It is the testimony of time that the world has never been made better, nor humanity uplifted, by a purely natural religion” (David Clark).*

In the Book of 1 Chronicles, David glorifies the name of God saying:-

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness,  
The power and the glory,  
The victory and the majesty;  
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;  
Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
And You are exalted as head over all.  
Both riches and honor come from You,  
And You reign over all.  
In Your hand is power and might;  
In Your hand it is to make great  
And to give strength to all’ (1 Chronicles 29:11-12).

God transcends human understanding. He has a purpose and reasons for creating a world in which sin was a possibility. We may not perfectly understand but He does.

Many worldly minds engage in senseless arguments against the knowledge of God and put themselves in confusing and low reasoning positions.

*“It is a great irony of life,” said David Clark, “that a child can know God while many a philosopher cannot find out the perfections of the Almighty”.*

The more humans try to fight against God and find imperfections in Him, the more it becomes difficult to prove one point against Him with concrete facts and pieces of evidence. Only when many have travelled

down this destructive path long enough are their limitations and weaknesses clearly exposed.

*“Let us beware of putting a human and finite construction upon things divine and infinite. We need to keep these words in mind, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.” God’s character stands out as the contrast of man’s, even as light is the contrast of darkness, as paradise is the contrast of the waste howling wilderness”* (Horatius Bonar, 1862).

Therefore, humanity can obtain freedom from Satanic schemes only by depending on God’s revelations and interpreting worldly events in the light of His revelations. Faith and reason must work together. Without faith, there is no objective basis for reason and knowledge. God makes this clear through the prophet Jeremiah when He says:-

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is the Lord.  
For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spreads out its roots by the river,  
And will not fear when heat comes;  
But its leaf will be green,  
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,  
Nor will cease from yielding fruit (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

Humanity has to listen to God for solutions. Only God can bring about concrete solutions. Human endeavours and reason can only make sense if they are conducted in the light of God’s revelations. The pride of humanity cannot save anyone. Human pride is the trap that catches them and leads them to misery.

God is to be acknowledged as the Head and Master. He created the world out of His own will and supreme knowledge. Him alone has the power and dominion to influence the world in a positive way in the current state, not humans.

God is the Beginning and the End, in Him is no limitations in wisdom and knowledge. He is the Alpha and the Omega and the only One that can solve the problem of sin, separation of humanity from Himself and the misery of humans.

As many as trust and depend on Him and His revelations, they find wisdom, knowledge, understanding, light and life to live fulfilled lives on earth. Hence, the next chapter will talk about how He solves the problem of sin as recorded in His revelations. You will also see that God has sent an open invitation to everyone to be saved and attain ultimate peace in Jesus Christ. May the Lord guide our steps in Jesus Name!

## **Chapter 4**

### **God's Solution To Human Problems**

A friend of mine narrated the story of her near plane crash experience in the Middle East skies. Traveling from Iran to the Golf Region in a two hours flight, their plane encountered technical problems in the air coupled with rough weather. Suddenly, the announcement came from the cockpit to tighten their belts, stay still and a series of other instructions.

In an instant, the plane's engines stopped working. Some African Christian passengers in the plane burst into loud prayers calling for God's rescue. Few other passengers joined in prayers. Moments later, there were considerable left and right movements of the plane's wings indicating that the pilots struggled to maintain the plane in a balanced position.

There were clear signs of panic and fear on the faces of the passengers. No one could predict what the end result could be. The passengers' lives were in the hands of the pilots and they were obliged to obey all instructions coming from the cockpit.

After a long moment of contemplation, the engines of the plane started working again and the flight became normal. Food was served but no one found the courage and motivation to eat. Everyone's expectation after the experience was for that dame plane to land.

When the plane's tyres touched the tarmac and landed safely, there were loud shouts of great joy and clapping. Many could not believe that they had just landed safely after the near-death experience they encountered in the skies.

What was supposed to be a normal and ordinary day was transformed into a memorable day and a testimony never to be forgotten.



God's solution for sin and human problems is similar to this near plane crash experience. All humans after the sin of Adam moved each to his own direction. Like the passengers on the plane, no one had control of the situation. As the passengers could not help but listen to and obey instructions coming from the cockpit, so are humans desperate for help and a concrete solution to life's issues.

God is the only one who can intervene in a concrete manner. He created the universe and everything in it out of His own will and desires. He is the only one that can inspire a concrete solution to the desperations of humanity. He is the Supreme Pilot and humans should listen to Him.

The Bible records; *"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation"* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

Human beings must obey the laws of God perfectly in order to continually remain in His presence. Nevertheless, after Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, not only was humanity affected with sin, it became impossible to obey God's laws and remain in His presence. Humans were cursed for not being able to obey the laws of God.

In Genesis 3:14-19, God mentioned some of the curses humans will have to live with in this world as a result of their disobedience to His laws. Later on in Deuteronomy chapter 28:15-68, many other curses that result from disobedience are recorded.

However, humans have never been able to obey God's laws perfectly since their fall in the Garden of Eden. This is due to Satan's influence in the world and their lives. Satan is in control of worldly events. No matter how hard humans have tried to obey God's laws, they have always stumbled in one way or the other. During this period of trying to obey



God's laws, God has been preparing human minds to recognize the fact that it is no longer possible for them to obey His laws perfectly in their fallen state.

Paul speaks of this inability to obey God's laws in the first part of Romans 8:3a *"It (talking about the law) was weak through the flesh"*. The flesh signifies the works of Satan which are the result of the curse of not being able to obey God's laws.

Nevertheless, Paul talks about God's intervention and solution to the problem *"God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit"* (Romans 8:3b-4). In Galatians, it is recorded *"But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:22-24).

Hence, God gave human a new opportunity to live a perfect life in Him through Jesus. By receiving Jesus, humans are able to live a spirit-filled life which is pleasing to God. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:26). Through this new life in Jesus Christ, humans will have dominion over Satan (Luke 10:19) and overcome the Satanic lifestyle that was imposed on them by Satan as a result of their sin (2 Corinthians 5:7, John 16:33, 1 John 4:4, John 8:36, Hebrews 2:14-15).

In fact, in Galatians, it is recorded *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the*

*Spirit through faith*” (Galatians 3:13). Those who are in Christ Jesus are indeed new spiritual creatures. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In this our world of confusion, therefore, there is a perfect solution for sin and human misery. Humans were unable to live a fulfilled life in this world on their own but God has enabled it through Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ insists that Jesus is a gift to humanity *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”* (Ephesians 2:8).

Jesus is our salvation. He is the bridge between humanity and God. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”* (John 3:16-17; Hebrews 9:15).

What then is the argument of the Atheist, Evolutionists and other unbelievers who are unable to solve the problems of the world? Interestingly, many are endlessly engaged in criticizing the Christian faith without sufficient pieces of evidence.

Christianity stands firm in its historical, archaeological and other scientific facts. Historical facts sufficiently account for the revelations in the Bible. No other worldview has sufficient historical, archaeological and scientific facts and pieces of evidence to support its claims as Christianity does. The information is available for everyone to verify. Many of those who continually argue have not considered all of the pieces of evidence and fact.

Most opposition is coming from people who have adopted mind manipulation techniques and logical fallacies to reject the claims of Christianity in favour of their own selfish theories and agendas. As already demonstrated earlier, trying to establish your own views without sufficient supporting pieces of evidence and facts is a deception from Satan. The end result of borrowing such a path is destruction and regrets.

It is important to engage in sincere inquiry before arriving at conclusion. Christian apologists have taken enough time to refute arguments of other worldviews with the support of facts and pieces of evidence. Many Evolutionists believe that with time, discoveries will be made to clearly establish their erroneous foundational speculations. Most discoveries, however, have contradicted claims made by evolutionists. For instance, contrary to the millions of years Evolutionists assign speculatively to certain species and historical events, most archaeological discoveries tend to indicate that the earth and its historical events are between four to twelve thousand years old.

Humanity does not need to live in endless speculations anymore. There is no need for human beings to continually live without a purpose. Jesus Christ is the New Life; He is the way, the truth and the Life. In Jesus, scientific discoveries and research will have a purpose and a clear meaning. Human exploration on earth will serve humanity and gear toward fulfilling God's purpose for a new Jerusalem.

All we need is to recognize and accept God's gift to save us from sin and the cares of this world. We are sure that Jesus is the Messiah and our Salvation for many reasons.

First, His virgin birth prophesied by the prophets of old in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament is indeed a verifiable reality.

Second, His miraculous life and deeds on earth are well recorded, preserved and undeniable historical facts.

Third, His death and resurrection from the dead after three days are the greatest pieces of evidence and historical facts that establish the Christian faith. If Jesus died and was not resurrected by God, Christianity is a waste of time. Nevertheless, a careful examination of historical events reveals that His death and resurrection are sufficiently testified among believing and non-believing witnesses or sources.

Fourth, His return is a certainty as recorded in the Bible and those who put their trust in Him await that day.

Five, His teachings and lifestyle is a perfect example for all to follow. Jesus' teachings are the best a society can get. Applying his instructions, principles and precepts will lead to a perfect society. Unfortunately, most people in the world reject Him without a sincere inquiry. Many depend on distorted and compromised versions of His teachings which is the result of selfishness.

Therefore, the time has come to set yourself free from the perils of this world. Keep in mind that no religion or worldview has sufficient facts and pieces of evidence in support of its claims as Christianity does. If you have not done your duty in examining these things, now is the time to do that. The days of this life are short compared to eternity which is waiting for us all.

If you laugh at these words, you are simply laughing at your own soul. A time is coming when darkness and fear will surround and conquer the negligent. God gave you the life you have and He will take it whenever He wants. If you think you are in control, that is pure deception.

Inquire sincerely on Jesus before it is too late. May the Lord soften your heart of stone and guide you to salvation in Jesus Name!

## **Chapter 5**

### **Becoming Born Again**

Charles was a nice gentleman from a family of five. He was the first-born and was loved by his parents because he took special care of his siblings.

Young men are usually attracted to sports and other boys' affairs at their youth stages but Charles was special. Although he played soccer, he always found time to wash his siblings, helped them do their homework, cooked for them and on many occasions, took them to the playgrounds. This gave his parents endless opportunities to spend time together and realize other important things for the family.

Charles simply loved children. His love for children was noticed when he decided to become a kindergarten teacher after high school. Following that decision, his parents realized that Charles was gifted with a special love for children and that he will become a very good father to his own biological children.

After his studies and internship, Charles eventually started working in a kindergarten in his hometown. He enjoyed his job and was admired by his employers.

Sometime later, Charles started developing feelings for having his own biological children. He realized that he had been busy taking care of children the whole of his life but never thought of the fact that he might want to have children of his own one day.

He was 24-years-old when these thoughts began to fluctuate his mind. He realized that the whole process of producing children starts with dating, then marriage and finally children. Charles never dated a woman before. He was afraid and did not know what dating really entails.

Nevertheless, he understood that he had to date women in order to find his wife and eventually fulfil his dream of having children. Hence, he started by reading some respected books and articles about Christian dating. After few months of studying, he decided to apply the knowledge he obtained.

Leticia was a beautiful-featured looking girl who taught English in the same school Charles worked. However, she was working in the primary school section in another department. Charles rarely saw her due to their busy schedules except during the mid-term and end-of-year general gatherings of teachers.

Besides not seeing Leticia, Charles and Leticia never had a discussion or real contact with each other. Therefore, Charles had to devise a strategy to talk to her. Few weeks into devising a strategy to talk to Leticia, Charles already fell in love with her despite not knowing her. His strategy was simple – first, find the best opportunity, greet her the first day, introduce himself, and chat a little about school and work.

Second, talk to her a second time and invite her for coffee. The plan was simple, cute and obviously one of the best approaches to adopt given the context. Charles had learned from dating books to relax and start a conversation without trying to cram words into his heart.

Before approaching Leticia the first time, he already knew the type of questions he would ask her.

One day, Charles found the perfect opportunity to talk to his lover. It was a bright afternoon after a general teachers training session. All teachers in school were allowed to go home a little earlier than usual that day. After the training sessions, Charles hurried towards the gate where everyone exited the campus.

Suddenly, he spotted Leticia by herself. She was walking gently towards the exit gate and didn't look expectant at all. As Leticia



approached Charles from a distance, she noticed that he would not stop stirring at her with a smile. She became a little embarrassed, dropped her sight to the ground and increased her walking speed.

*'Hi, my name is Charles, a kindergarten teacher. I know we don't know each other and that you are surely embarrassed that I am talking to you but it would be interesting to share a little with you if you don't mind'.* Charles said. *'Hello Charles, I'm Leticia, nice to meet you. Sorry, I was a little nervous that you stirred at me that much and for long. Since I'm not used to that, I was simply embarrassed and wanted to disappear from your presence. It's a pleasure to meet you, Charles. How are you doing?'.* Leticia answered.

Their discussion lasted about twenty minutes. They talked about many activities in school and experiences with students. In fact, the discussion went so well and Leticia was very open-minded, smiley, interested in talking and appreciative to an extent that Charles said within himself *'I have finally found my wife'*.

That sweet day passed and everyone went home. Charles was so happy that he finally talked to the one he had fallen in love with and everything went well. He could not sleep anymore. He already started imagining a family of three to four children with Leticia and how he would take care of his children.

However, he still needed to find the next opportunity to invite her for coffee. One week had passed and they saw and greeted each other only briefly twice at the school campus. On the Monday of the second week, Charles rushed to Leticia's class after closing time. Leticia was just preparing to release the pupils when she noticed the young and handsome Charles watching and waiting by the window.

She understood that she was the reason for his presence there. So she hurried to release the students, said goodbye to them, packed her

items and rushed to meet Charles. They gave each other a hug and walked together towards the campus exit. Leticia wanted to know the reason why Charles visited her. Charles used the opportunity to invite her for coffee. She accepted the invitation with gratitude and without any hesitation. The invitation was the next day in a suitable location for both.

By this time, Leticia understood that she was probably dealing with someone who was interested in her. However, what she did not know was that Charles was already totally in love with her and considered her his future wife in his heart. In Leticia's heart, however, Charles was a nice guy, good-looking, intelligent and worthwhile getting to know. At that stage into the relationship, she had not developed the slightest feeling of romance for him. She was still in a casual relationship with the hope of knowing Charles better.

That Saturday, Charles and Leticia met again. They spent more than three hours together at the Coffee shop and talked about many things. In the end, Charles expressed his feelings for her and his desire to get into a deeper relationship with her. Leticia was happy with his words and accepted a relationship to know themselves better. Charles returned home that day very joyful. He had no doubt in his heart that Leticia would become his wife. Once in a while, they met for coffee, lunch or dinner and Charles would always buy a small gift for Leticia. This continued for nine months.

At the end of the ninth month, Charles wanted things to get deeper. He wanted Leticia to get to know his parents and family and vice versa. However, he noticed that Leticia was a little skeptical about a decision to meet his parents or introduce him to her parents. Nevertheless, Charles insisted over and over.

The situation became a little stressful for both causing a little moment of turbulence in the relationship. After one year six months into



the relationship, they had still not met each other's parents. They had known each other a lot better and it was more than right time to take some major decisions for the relationship. However, Leticia's attitude and resistance to meet both parents was a point of alarm to Charles.

After one year seven months into the relationship, Charles wanted to know the reason for Leticia's hesitation. He invited her to lunch in a restaurant. While they touched the vital points about their relationship and what the future could be like for both, Leticia spoke her mind to Charles about the relationship.

According to her, she was yet to fall in love with him. As a matter of fact, she told Charles that she did not feel like she could be his wife. According to Leticia, she had no substantial reasons why she did not have deep feelings for him. She just felt in her heart that she was not ready to make a decision at that point. She, therefore, needed more time to understand the meaning of the relationship and to eventually reach a decision.

This words from Leticia came like a shock to Charles who had invested time, money and efforts to find a wife. Only then did he realize that all along, his efforts had just been in vain. He discovered that Leticia had never taken the relationship seriously as he did. He realized that at the point into the relationship, everything was completely meaningless.

The food he was eating suddenly became bitter. He was perplexed and confused as he stirred at Leticia. He tried as much as possible to behave in a responsible manner until they had separated.

From the moment they said goodbye to each other on that day until now, things have never been the same again. Charles made some efforts to get into contact with Leticia again after that day with the hope that she would reach a decision. However, Leticia seemed to have already reached

a decision that famous day. She neither communicated anything serious to Charles about the relationship nor showed any interest in continuing.

Their relationship slowly deteriorated until it returned to the point of origin. Charles' dream of getting married and making children seemed to be fading away. He could not understand what his life would become after such a waste of time and efforts. He was completely downcast, discouraged and perplexed. He lost every interest in women. He feared that dating another woman can result in the same results as Laticia.

The story of Charles is related to that of human beings looking for God or trying to make meaning out of life on their own. Humans have put enormous efforts in their research for fulfilment in this world to no avail. Some believe that money, wealth and material possessions can bring them fulfilment.

However, internal peace and spiritual fulfilment is not something that can be earned by human efforts or bought with money. Humans are continually frustrated by their lack of control of events in the world. Haven lost their dominion in this world, they are under the influence of Satan who can do what he wants with them. Satan's influence on human beings can clearly be seen in the sports, movie, fashion, music and intellectual industries.

Many people adventure into luxuries, the pursuit of wealth, riches, material possessions, intellectual recognition and fame only to realize that those things are temporary and void of internal fulfilment. Except when God intervenes, all the efforts of human beings are recuperated by Satan and used to glorify the deeds of the flesh. Therefore, the fulfilment and peace humans chase on earth through human efforts does not last long. True fulfilment can only come from the One who has dominion in heaven and on earth and that is God.

After several months of mourning, frustration and regrets, Charles put himself together and encouraged himself to forget about his adventure with Leticia. Nevertheless, he had no intentions of dating another woman so soon after the horrible experience with Leticia.

One weekend, Charles went as he usually does once in a while with his friends to play soccer for leisure. There were many people cheering them during the game. Most of the people were wives and friends of the players who came along to distract themselves but there were also few visitors on many occasions.

At halftime, some young ladies distributed drinking water to players of both teams. One of the young ladies gave a bottle of water to Charles and said *'You play really well'. 'Thank you!'*, Charles replied with a smile.

She continued distributing water bottles with other players until the second half of the game resumed.

After the game, the lady approached Charles again and asked *'Why are you not playing professional football?'*

Charles answered; *'I am not sure I have the charisma, skills and strength to play professional soccer. Besides, at twenty-six, it is probably late to start training very hard for that. Moreover, I really like my job as a kindergarten teacher'*.

*'Oh really, you teach children? You must be a very patient guy'*. The girl replied.

To cut the long story short, they introduced themselves to each other, had a chat and exchanged numbers. The girl was called Esther and she lived close to where Charles lived but they never noticed each other.

Esther was a pharmacist. A love relationship started among them immediately. The relationship was the type one would call a natural relationship. None of the partners had difficulties in getting to know the other and within weeks, they had known each other's parents.

Charles was surprised to learn that his father knew Esther's father. Both Charles' and Esther's fathers had previously worked in the same company. They did not work in the same department but both departments had a lot of interactions. Charles' and Esther's father had lunch many times in the company's restaurant and knew each other to some extent. Both Charles and Esther were pleased to know that both fathers knew each other. This increased the level of trust in their relationship.

Only two months into the relationship, they were madly in love with each other. Charles did not find a further reason to keep Esther waiting. After only three months, he proposed to Esther to become his wife. Esther was crazily happy and filled with joy. She was twenty-two years old and was trusting God to meet her husband. Three months after their engagement, they got married and today they are happily raising three children. Charles' dream of becoming a father is finally a reality.

The wise man once said *'The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it'* (Proverbs 10:22).

The toiling and labour of human beings in order to obtain fulfilment has only led them from sorrow to sorrow. The story of Charles and his first lover Leticia is a perfect demonstration of human efforts and results.

Charles worked hard day and night to prove his love to Leticia but he forgot about one important detail – You cannot earn true love. True love is not something you buy with money or work very hard to prove and obtain. True love is an indescribable and special feeling far beyond worldly language. True love is completely independent of worldly things and Esther is the proof of true love in Charles' life.

True love is indeed a gift.

The husband and wife are gifts to each other. All you need to do with a gift is recognize it, accept it and take possession of it.

In the same way, God is not inert concerning the frustrations and discouragements of human beings in their pursuit of fulfilment in life. He knows that humanity is lost and that when sin entered the world, humans lost their dominion to Satan, were separated from God and lacked any capabilities of reaching out to Him.

God saw the attempts of Adam and Eve to cover a nakedness they weren't aware of before their disobedience.

God saw the sacrifices offered to him in the form of sheep, rams, goats and bulls in order to appease His wrath.

He saw how degraded and lost human beings were as they continually fulfilled the lusts of the flesh. Humans were completely lost, disoriented from Godly principles and destined to destruction.

However, in His good pleasure and will, God sacrificed His own Son, Jesus Christ, for our sins. Paul speaks of this saying '*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*' (Romans 5:8).

Therefore, as Esther is a gift to Charles, Jesus Christ is God's gift for internal peace, fulfilment and salvation. That Bible reveals '*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*' (John 1:12-13).

Charles recognized that Esther was the woman he had been looking for. He did not waste any time to possess his free gift. Esther came naturally. He did not have to spend money and efforts to have her as his wife. He would certainly miss the love of his life for not proposing to Esther.

In the same way, Jesus is the gift of life. He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus. Jesus cannot be bought with money. Missing Jesus in this world is missing

true life and fulfilment. Nothing in this life makes sense if Jesus is not at the centre. Hence, human achievements, successes and fulfilments are long lasting, eternal and unshakable only if they are defined and pursued with Jesus at the centre. For this reason, humans need to accept the free gift from God to find internal peace and fulfilment.

Like Charles, depending on human efforts alone will lead humanity nowhere. There is nothing humans can do on their own to cleanse them from sin.

Jesus is the one and only solution and it is a free gift from God. All humans have to do is to receive Jesus as Lord and saviour in their lives.

To sincerely receive Jesus, you will have to do the following;

- Believe in your heart that Jesus truly laid down His life for you on the Cross of Calvary. You will obviously meditate on His birth, crucifixion on the Cross of Calvary, resurrection from the tomb after three days and His future return.
- Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and saviour and share the testimony of what Jesus has done with others. This usually involves confessing your sins, repenting from those sins, asking Jesus to come into your life and asking the Holy Spirit to fill you and empower you to live the New Life in Jesus Christ.

Paul teaches on receiving Jesus saying;

*“...The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For*



*the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*  
(Romans 10:8-11).

Responding to the Philippian Jailer who wanted to know what it takes to be saved, Paul and Silas responded:-

*“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”* (Acts 16:29-31).

At the time of instructing the Great Commission, Jesus said;

*“...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*  
(Mark 16:15-18).

If you have seriously been intoxicated with views from other worldviews, it might not be easy to accept the testimony of Jesus without sufficient pieces of evidence. It will be helpful to inquire about Jesus and understand His mission on earth. Study the historical Jesus. Understand His birth, death, resurrection and future return on earth.

You might want to consider all the available facts, historical, archaeological and spiritual pieces of evidence that are freely available to all. A book such as ‘*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*’ by Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona and the likes will be helpful to understand the facts and pieces of evidence associated with Jesus.

After receiving Jesus, you will also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who will empower you to live a Godly and fulfilled life in Christ. This New Life in Christ and eternal peace impacted by the Holy Spirit is completely different from what the world offers. The end result of depending on the world and human efforts are suffering, regrets and eternal damnation.

Jesus is the illumination humanity longs for. May the Lord lead people to Himself in Jesus Name!



## Chapter 6

### What Happens When You Are Truly Born Again?

Many mysterious things happen when someone receives Jesus in his or her life. The journey to the point where one is convicted by the Holy Spirit is not the same for everybody. Some people believe once they hear the gospel for the first time or after a few times in their lives. Others are captives of other worldviews and require apologetic approaches to be convicted. Still, some never take the gospel seriously even though they hear it over and over again until they find themselves in serious trouble requiring the help of God. Another category is convicted by God through certain spectacular events such as Paul. Many such as Pharaoh would require more to be convicted even after seeing God's spectacular power in action.

Stanford puts this well when he says *“Lydia came by gentle persuasion of the truth blessed by God, but it required an earthquake to move the Philippian jailer”* (Stanford E. Murrell, Th.D., 1689).

Whether by supernatural events, sorrow, gentle or intellectual persuasions, the act of being convicted followed by repentance and conversion of an individual remains a mystery that cannot be fully described with earthly words.

The story is told of a young boy called Mark who was one from a group of five boys. Right from primary school, Mark and his four friends formed a core of five friends who always performed various activities together. They studied, played, visited each other and enjoyed childhood days in various ways. They usually called themselves the ‘big five’.

The two main characteristics that distinguished members of the big five from other young boys were talent in soccer and creative skills to

seduce girls. The big five members were very prideful, arrogant and had the reputation of changing girlfriends at will.

While in high school, something shocking happened to the big five group. Mark started displaying certain characteristics different from usual. He rarely attended the big five gatherings. He also rarely associated himself with his girlfriends. He embraced a gentle language and avoided parties and the rugged lifestyle.

Mark's friends wondered what had happened to him and while they devised strategies to 'bring him back to his senses', Mark started talking to them about how Jesus changed his life.

Mark tried to explain the mystery of this new life in Jesus to his friends but none would understand what he said. Instead, Mark's friends made a mockery of him and told him he is out of his mind.

Being born again is mysterious. However, it is also an unforgettable reality that everyone should experience. Like Mark's friends, Nicodemus could not understand the words of Jesus when He said we need to be born again (John 3:3-4).

When you are truly born again, everything becomes new in your sight. You see things differently from the way you saw them before. You are like a child coming out from your mother's womb who needs to learn about everything. You discover that you are able to acquire a new knowledge and understanding which is different from the usual perspective.

Before becoming born again, you could adventure yourself into any activity you wanted without precautions. After being born again, there seems to be a mysterious change and voice in your conscience that reminds you each time you are about to cross certain boundaries. The more you increase your knowledge of the Word of God, the more pronounced this voice becomes and clear the boundaries are seen. Hence,

the born-again person naturally abstains from doing certain things in fear of God.

The character of the truly born again person never remains the same after conversion. It stirs a certain concern among people who truly knew his or her lifestyle before and after receiving Jesus. That is exactly what was happening to Mark and his friends. Mark's friends could not identify themselves with him any longer. They also did not understand the sudden change in Mark's character. To them, Mark was out of his mind, acting foolishly and needed to be brought back to his right senses.

The reality, however, is that Mark had embraced Jesus and subsequently, life everlasting and the New Life In Christ Jesus. Mark's new lifestyle was no longer a reflection of the world. Rather, it reflected the lifestyle of Jesus and heavenly beings.

How do you explain this new behaviour after receiving Jesus? Below is a list of things that occur when you become born again as revealed in the Bible that account for this sudden change in character and behaviour;

### **1- You become a brand new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

Remember that the real human being is a Spirit not flesh. Many people see human bodies as the real humans but that is deception. The real human being has the image of God (Genesis 1:27). God is the Father of spirits not of fleshly beings (Hebrews 12:9). The Body is housing the real human who is a spirit (Philippians 1:19-25). The real human (spirit person) is either connected to God, in which case the person is born again (Ephesians 2:1-10) or separated from Him due to sin.

All humans as we saw earlier, are by nature separated from God due to sin and have a dead spirit (Genesis 2:17, Romans 3:23). A dead spirit

means that the person is totally dead to the things of God as a result of sin. All a person with a dead spirit does is evil in the sight of God because it is a reflection of Satan (Isaiah 64:6-7). All spiritually dead people are under the direct influence and control of Satan. They see the things of God as foolishness because all they think about is worldly, fleshly and devilish things (1 Corinthians 2:14).

That's why they need to be recreated or born again. By becoming recreated, they are made alive once again. This is a process that begins in the realm of the spirit, then goes to the mental and finally manifests itself in the physical realm.

How?

The person needs to be convicted by the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-9). Without the Holy Spirit's conviction, no one is able to acknowledge his or her sins.

However, before a person is convicted by the Holy Spirit, he or she has to hear the gospel and come to the point of conviction.

Paul says *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?..."* (Romans 10:14-15).

This conviction process as we saw early differs from person to person. Some will hear the gospel and be convicted at once. Others will need to hear the gospel many times to be convicted. Some will require apologetic persuasions and still, a few will need to be spectacularly confronted by God through supernatural means to be convicted.

Once the person is convicted by the Holy Spirit, the person confesses his sins and receives Jesus as Lord and Saviour in his or her life. The Holy Spirit comes immediately and indwells the person's dead spirit (Romans 5:5, 1 Corinthians 6:19). Through the miraculous power of the

Holy Spirit, the person's spirit is recreated and it becomes brand new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Hence, the person becomes a newborn spiritual child of God. This is what Nicodemus could not understand when Jesus explained the born again process. It is indeed a miraculous process enabled by God Himself. Words cannot fully explain the process. The things of God are sometimes not fully grasped by natural human logic.

In fact, Jesus continued His teaching on this topic saying; *"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 'The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit'"* (John 3:7-8).

Nevertheless, those who receive Jesus and are born again know that they are because the Holy Spirit who made them alive is able to communicate this truth to them. Paul makes this clear when he says *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"* (Romans 8:16).

## **2- You become righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21)**

In common terms, to be righteous simply means to be in right standing with God. In other words, you are saved and will spend eternal life with God in the New Jerusalem.

Righteousness is an impossibility for non-believers (those who are not born again).

Righteousness is also a gift that comes when we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives (Philippians 3:9). Being righteousness and being a sinner are mutually exclusive meaning one is the opposite of the other (Mathew 5:6-10).

A sinful nature is obtained through rebellion and sin while righteousness is obtained only in Jesus Christ. When God looks at the born-again person, He sees Jesus in the person and welcomes the person into His kingdom. When a person becomes righteous, he or she is able to communicate with God and build a personal relationship with Him (1Peter 3:12). Those who are born again pray to God the Father through Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit in this righteous relationship.

### **3- You move from the kingdom of Satan to God's kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14)**

Another invisible event that happens is the movement from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Those who have a dead spirit are in Satan's kingdom (also known as the kingdom of darkness) while those whose sins have been forgiven leave the kingdom of darkness to enter God's kingdom (also known as the kingdom of light).

This mystery is clearly evident in the world we live in. On the one hand, the people who are in Satan's kingdom can be recognized by what they do. Their deeds are clearly described in the Bible as “... *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries...*” (Galatians 5:19-21).

Those people who delight themselves in doing these evil things are clearly in Satan's kingdom and have nothing to do with God.

On the other hand, those in God's kingdom also bear a certain fruit that distinguishes them from those in the kingdom of darkness. This fruit is known as ‘the Fruit of the Spirit’ and includes “*love, joy, peace,*



*longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...*" (Galatians 5:22-23).

When a person claims to be a truly born again Christian, you will know the person by the fruit of the Spirit. Jesus Himself recommends identifying the type of fruits people bear to know to which kingdom they belong when He says *"...Therefore by their fruits you will know them"* (Matthew 7:15-20).

Mark's friends were still in Satan's kingdom while he had been moved from that kingdom into God's kingdom of light. Since he had been moved to God's kingdom, he started bearing fruits typical to those in God's kingdom. That's why his friends could not identify themselves with him anymore.

In our world today, there are many people who claim to know God yet their deeds testify against them. Paul makes it clear when he says *"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men"* (Romans 14:17-18).

The entertainment industries, the world of politics and even the physical churches are filled with misleading superstars and leaders whom many look up to. However, their ungodly and satanic lifestyles are evident from their deeds and testify against their adherence to God's kingdom. Many false prophets hide in churches and deceive people to pursue their selfish and fleshly agendas.

The Word of God is clear about all ungodly people *"Let both (ungodly and the godly) grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I (God) will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares (ungodly) and bind them in bundles to burn them (hell), but gather the wheat (Godly) into my barn (God's kingdom)"* (Mathew 13:30) (non-italic words added).



#### **4- You have a new Father who is God (John 8:41-44, Galatians 3:26)**

When a person is not born again, the person has as father Satan. The person collects instructions and information from Satan. That's why the person does things that are satanic in nature. No matter how hard the person tries to do good, the good will not mean anything before God because it is corrupt (Romans 3:10-18). The person cannot do good because he or she is a sinner by nature (Ephesians 2:3).

However, when the person received Jesus and becomes born again, Satan ceases to be his or her guide and instructor. God becomes the person's new Father. God will communicate new and pure information to guide the person through the Holy Spirit living in the person (John 16:13). This communication process with God is only effective as the person reads and applies the Word of God in the Bible.

In fact, this is what the Bible describes as walking in the Spirit. Those who walk in the Spirit set their minds on the things of God and not on the things of this world (Galatians 5:16). Their focus is on the Lord because He is their new Father.

#### **5- You become a son or daughter of God and heir of God's promise together with Abraham (Galatians 4:6-7)**

When you become born again, you become a member of God's household. The Bible clearly records *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"* (Ephesians 2:19). God no longer sees the born-again believers as separated from Himself. Rather, He sees them as His

children. As a consequence, what belongs to the Father also belongs to the children.

Therefore, Paul clearly explains in Ephesians *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”* (Ephesians 1:3).

These spiritual blessings only come as a result of being born again. This mystery is well explained in Galatians where Paul reveals that *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”* (Galatians 3:13). The curse of the law is summarized in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. The curses can be grouped into three main categories including spiritual death, poverty and sicknesses.

By putting your trust and faith in Jesus Christ, you are delivered from all the curses that came as a result of sin through Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Paul further explains the reason why God decided to deliver humanity through Jesus Christ. In verse 14 of the same Galatians 3, he states the reason saying *“that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”* (Galatians 3:14).

Interestingly, Paul explains that certain promises were made to Abraham there were to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ *“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ”* (Galatians 3:16).

In the Presbyterian church, sometimes the song goes forth;

Abraham's blessings are mine  
 Abraham's blessings are mine  
 I am blessed in the Morning

I am blessed in the Evening  
Abraham's blessings are mine

Wouldn't it be interesting to know what those blessings promised through Abraham are? These blessings are revealed in the Book of Genesis;

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.

I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”  
(Genesis 12:1-3)

Interestingly, Paul concludes in verse 29 of Galatians 3 saying “*And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*”. Isn't this amazing? To obtain Abraham's blessings in your life, you need to have Christ. However, the blessings of Abraham for those who are in Christ today are far greater than the physical blessings

promised to Abraham at the time. In the Book of Corinthians, it is recorded that;

*“...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him...”  
(1 Corinthians 2:9-12).*

Nevertheless, these things are revealed by God to those who are in Jesus Christ *“...who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”* (Ephesians 3:20). May the Lord deliver us from darkness in Jesus Name!

## **Chapter 7**

### **The Legal And Active Phases Of God's Gift (Salvation)**

In the world today, there are many theories and worldviews that claim to be the right way to righteousness and fulfilment. Most people don't like to endure the pain of inquiring about anything. They believe everything that is advertised.

Unfortunately, given that most people are still living in darkness, a greater majority of available information, theories and explanations are not in favour of human upliftment. As a consequence, people who neglect sincere inquiry are the most deceived in matters concerning the truth because they depend entirely on others.

You see, the devil likes it when people are ignorant so that they will never reach the point where they are convicted by the Holy Spirit. Dependence on human knowledge and theories is foolishness as we have already seen. Ungodly humans are weak, powerless and in control of very little in this world. The achievements of the ungodly are inspired, claimed and used by their Father Satan to promote his own agenda. Therefore, sincere inquiry should be a vital part of each individual's life on earth.

The main reason why many people don't understand the realities, facts and pieces of evidence surrounding Jesus is that they refuse to engage in sincere inquiry. Unfortunately, some people have been deceived to believe that ignorance will be pardoned. No, don't be deceived! Ignorance will never save a person. On the contrary, ignorance will facilitate a person's destruction. Only grace and mercy can take a person successfully through the perils of life and these are found only in Jesus Christ.

Sin is a clear reality that cannot be denied by any logical person. If it is so clear that the damnation of sin is beyond human capacity to handle, isn't it common sense to be concerned about the situation.

Instead of being concerned about a trustworthy solution, some have developed theories such as relativity. However, the burden of sin is not wiped away by relative concepts. No other religion has even come close to solve the sin problem. Well-known religions with millions of adherents such as Islam and Buddhism all depend on human efforts to attain salvation.

Nevertheless, as we have seen, human efforts are futile and limited in their attempts to solve the sin problem. Islamist and Buddhists themselves have failed to examine the facts and pieces of evidence surrounding Jesus. Although some have seen the facts and pieces of evidence about Jesus, they argue against them and try to falsify them in favour of their own unfounded positions.

This brings us to the first Phase of God's gift – the legal part of God's gift or salvation. The legal part is the case surrounding the claims concerning Jesus. It answers questions such as;

- Is Jesus truly the Son of God?
- Is Jesus God?
- Was Jesus really born of a virgin?
- Did Jesus really exist in this world?
- Is the Biblical record of Jesus accurate?
- Did Jesus die by crucifixion?
- Did Jesus rise from the dead after three days?
- Did Jesus ascend into heaven?
- Is there sufficient evidence that Jesus will return again?

- Is there sufficient evidence that Jesus will judge the world?
- Is there sufficient evidence that you should accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and put your faith in Him to be saved?
- And many other questions surrounding the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and His Messiahship.

If indeed the answer to all these questions is 'yes, there are sufficient facts and pieces of evidence', one needs to be careful. Even if the answer is 'no, there are no sufficient facts and pieces of evidence', how did you come to that conclusion?

On a personal perspective, did you consider all the pieces of evidence and facts? Have you truly inquired before arriving at your conclusion on these things? Are you simply living life like a fool and buying to worldly ideologies? Keep in mind that sooner or later, the life you are living will be taken away from you. That is enough evidence to keep your head ticking. The fact that you will die against your desire is not only enough evidence that you are in control of nothing but also a warning to inquire about what will happen to you after you die.

The truth of the matter is if you inquire sincerely, that is, keeping away subjectivity and bias, you can only arrive at the conclusion 'that there are sufficient scientific and spiritual pieces of evidence and facts that Jesus is the way the truth and the life'.

After the sincere inquiry and conclusion, you will be convicted by the Holy Spirit of your sins. Let it be clear that it is your duty to inquire about these things yourself. Although you will require materials to help you and explanations from people, God will guide you to the right people if you engage in inquiry with the right mind and attitude. Don't commit the mistake of depending entirely on people. If you do, Satan will use those whom you depend on to deceive you.



The writer of Hebrews makes some interesting statements *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”* (Hebrews 12:1). There is a cloud of witnesses to the things concerning Jesus out there and it is your duty to sincerely inquire about their authenticity and trustworthiness.

It is one thing to inquire about Jesus and another to sincerely receive Him in your life and live the New Life in Him. There are many people out there, especially some so-called science alone advocates and Islamists who have discovered unspeakable realities about Jesus and the Christian faith. Instead of accepting these facts and admitting the authenticity of presented pieces of evidence, they look for alternative explanations to discredit the truth.

This brings us to the second phase of God’s gift known as the active part of redemption. It is not enough to reach the point of conviction and do nothing about it. You see, Pilate was truly convinced in his heart that Jesus was innocent and could be the Messiah. Nevertheless, he washed his hands with water as if that water would cleanse his sins. He allowed Jesus to be crucified in favour of maintaining a position of authority and pleasing human beings. Salvation was standing right in front of him and he did a great job inquiring about the truth. His sincere inquiry led him to nothing but the truth. Yet, he suppressed that revealed truth in favour of material things, a human position of authority and praises from human beings. In the end, he lost both human praises and salvation.

When you have been convicted by the Holy Spirit, there is no point denying or trying to shade the truth. Truth is light; it always illuminates the darkness and prevails over it. You can never suppress the truth for long. If you do, sooner or later, your stupidity will be exposed. Once you

are convicted by the Holy Spirit, it is time to confess your sins, ask for forgiveness and ask Jesus to come into your life.

Mere knowledge will not save you or change your situation. You need to be saved and become a brand new creature in God's kingdom, learn and do those things that God wants you to do in this world. Some have reached the point of conviction but refused to take that decision. When that happens, the devil will help you to forget about your efforts and journey to discover the truth. He will keep you busy with the things of the world so that you will not think of taking that decision until you come to discover that it's too late.

When your life has been taken away from you without taking this decision to follow Jesus, sorry, it becomes too late. First, the Hebrew writer warns about this decision *"how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"* (Hebrews 2:3-4).

He continues by encouraging the unbelievers saying;

*"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."  
(Hebrews 3:15).*

The song goes forth;

*Today, if you hear God's voice  
Harden not your heart  
Before Him  
Today, if you hear God's voice*

*Harden not your heart  
Before him!*

Paul encourages the sincere inquirers of the truth saying;

*“In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”  
Behold, now is the accepted time;  
behold, now is the day of salvation”  
(2 Corinthians 6:2).*

Indeed, now is the day of salvation. You do not know what will happen to you in the next few minutes. You may not have another opportunity. Remember that many who have died missed the opportunity to inquire and take the decision to serve the Lord. All their lives, they spent their time pursuing their job careers, raising children, travelling the world, eating, drinking and partying until they reached the point where life became meaningless. Some lost interest in seeking the truth. Others died without having time to fulfil their set objectives.

The latter failed to realize that life is short and has priorities while the former were trapped by the deceitfulness of riches, wealth and pleasure.

Nevertheless, all will stand before God to give an account of their lives. The Bible, however, reveals that *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”* (Romans 8:1).

May the Lord guide you to the truth and help you with the right decisions in Jesus Name!

## **Conclusion**

You have surely learned very important lessons today. Get rid of senseless speculations and laziness. Humans are in control of very little and cannot free themselves from the misery of sin. Jesus is the way to eternal peace, freedom and joy. If you still doubt His authenticity, engage in sincere inquiry. Remember that to enter God's kingdom you have to be born again. The born again experience begins in the spiritual realm through the recreation of the human spirit and spreads to the mental and physical realms through a transformation of the mind and deeds by the Word of God. To be born again, you simply have to receive Jesus Christ in your life as Lord and saviour. Words cannot fully explain this mystery but its authenticity is accounted for by the Holy Spirit who comes to live in your heart forever. If you have heard the voice of the Holy Spirit today, do not harden your heart. Jesus is knocking the door of your heart and desires that you spend eternity with Him in His presence. May the Lord guide your decisions and deliver you from darkness in Jesus Name!

## **Possible Guide To Become Born Again**

Remember that there is no particular prayer format once you are convicted by the Holy Spirit. This is not a decision someone can take for you. It is your decision. Moreover, you cannot truly take this decision except you are convicted by the Holy Spirit.

If you have been convicted and are ready to be born again, you can proceed as follows;

- Reflect on your past lifestyle.
- Reflect on what you have learned and discovered about Jesus as the Messiah and Saviour.
- Meditate on Romans 10:9-11 and other verses, pray and ask Jesus to come into your life as Lord and Saviour.
- Confess all your sins and ask for forgiveness. Ask God to give you the strength to live the New Life in Jesus Christ.

If you approach God sincerely from the bottom of your heart as led by the convicting Holy Spirit, Jesus will become your Lord and Saviour and as a consequence, you will become born again.

Once you are born again, the next step is to organize your Bible study and prayer life. Only the Word of God and prayer are able to sustain you and help you not to backslide. Without the Word of God, you will forget about God and reembrace Satan.

**God bless you abundantly!**

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