

The Miracle Of the New Birth

By Dave Roberson

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture notations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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Chapter 1

Man's Need for a Savior

As far back as I can remember, I knew that Jesus had died for my sins. I mean, it's difficult for a person to grow up in America and not know that basic truth about Jesus!

Thank God for national holidays like Christmas. Even though Jesus has to share His glory with Santa Claus, at least everyone who celebrates Christmas hears the basic truth that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth as a Baby.

But as I was growing up, I didn't understand **WHY** Jesus died for my sins. I remember several times when someone would ask me, "Are you saved?"

"Saved from what?" I'd ask.

"Well, have you ever accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?"

I'd hesitate, not really knowing how to answer. Then the person would proceed to tell me that Jesus died not only for my own sins, but for the sins of the whole world, according to John 3:16: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Why Did Jesus Die for Us?

Most people in the United States are in the same spiritual condition I was in when I was a boy. They've heard that Jesus is the Son of God

who died for their sins. However, most don't understand why He had to do it. They also don't understand how they came to be sinners who need a Savior in the first place.

Many people today believe that our basic human nature isn't a direct result of sin but of instincts developed in us through the process of evolution. For instance, many believe that man's greed evolved over the ages as people hoarded things for themselves out of fear or a sense of self-preservation. People who hold to this theory of evolution also maintain that acts of adultery or polygamy are left over from a time in man's evolution when such behavior ensured the survival of the human species.

Evolutionists explain human behavior as something that has evolved over the process of time rather than as the result of man separating himself from God through sin. Most don't want to acknowledge that man's sin nature was caused by the fall of the human race.

Jesus—The Only Way

Mankind is in desperate need of a Savior, but some people refuse to admit that. Man can't change himself back to the way he was before the fall, nor will he ever be able to do so. Without Jesus, there is no answer for sin and no hope for the human race—only the prospect of a short life and then incarceration in a godless eternity.

In John 14:6, Jesus made it clear that He is the **ONLY** Path to

deliverance from the sin nature: **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** Believe me, my friend, you want to commit yourself to Jesus. Mankind has no other hope—and that includes you!

Chapter 2 ***The First Adam***

It's hard to understand how the human race ever got into such a mess. After all, we know from Genesis 1:27 that the first man Adam was made in the express image of God: **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

Adam was the ideal man, perfect in every way—spirit, soul, and body. How anyone like Adam could ever be separated from God by sin is a mystery that's as old as the book of Genesis. It's a subject the finest theological minds have been trying to understand for a long time.

Broken Fellowship

However, we do know this: According to the account of creation God handed down to us through the book of Genesis, about six thousand years ago, He gave Adam and Eve a direct commandment:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:16,17

Adam disobeyed that direct commandment. And the day he ate of the forbidden fruit, his nature was changed from one that was in

fellowship with God to one that was not. Afterwards, God was still able to communicate with Adam but only to his mind in the form of instruction. Adam now had only an external, distant relationship with God.

God could no longer do what He longed to do: fellowship with Adam through the righteous nature He had given him as His son. Adam's heart had become sinful, separated from God by spiritual death. It wasn't just a matter of Adam choosing to stop sinning. Adam had actually **BECOME** sin. He possessed a nature that couldn't stop sinning even if he wanted to.

Locked Outside of God

What made this worse was the fact that the fallen nature Adam received as a result of his transgression didn't just affect him—it affected the entire human race! Adam entered into a spiritual death that was passed on to his children and his children's children.

The very core of Adam's existence—everything he was and everything he had become—was now locked away from God's Presence. But Adam wasn't the only one with that problem. All mankind faced the same dilemma. The entire human race had been locked up on the outside of God with no way of freeing themselves or getting back to Him.

That's why the Gospel of redemption is a story of grace. What we couldn't do for ourselves, God did

for us by stepping in and sending His Son Jesus to die in our place. When we receive His grace, we are born again. This salvation is not attained through our own merit or efforts but freely given to us by God.

**For by grace are ye saved
through faith; and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Ephesians 2:8**

Chapter 3

Our Inheritance From the Fall

Before we were born again, we lived on the outside of God. We were imprisoned in our own sin nature, desperately in need of salvation and helpless to save ourselves.

Every human being born of Adam inherited this same sin nature. This is what Paul meant in Romans 5:12: **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, FOR THAT ALL HAVE SINNED.**

Notice the last part of this verse says, **for that all have sinned.** The words “for that” are making reference to Adam’s original transgression that caused the human race to inherit spiritual death and the nature to sin.

Mankind’s Death Penalty

The fallen human nature is a diseased tree rooted in Adam’s transgression. It is the reason every man sins and is guilty before God. And unless a person inherits a new nature from God, he can’t stop sinning, even if he wants to.

When Paul said, “For that **ALL** have sinned,” he meant that not one single member of the human race escaped inheriting this sin nature from Adam. All of mankind has the same sentence of death. Every person born is destined to inherit spiritual death from his or her forefather Adam.

What Is ‘Spiritual Death’?

This death penalty isn’t just talking about your short life on this earth that ends with physical death and the grave. You see, there will never be a time you don’t exist. Your spirit will exist forever in either Heaven or hell. So spiritual death doesn’t mean “to cease to exist.” It means to be cut off from God, separated from His fellowship. It means to have a nature that causes you to sin. That fallen nature is not only incapable of dwelling in the Presence of God; it also cannot flow in harmony with the rest of God’s creation—not now, not ever.

So mankind has a problem. The entire human race has inherited spiritual death from Adam. People can’t save themselves because they cannot stop sinning. They have come under the penalty of judgment God first spoke over Adam when He said, “The day you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17).

Through the first Adam’s disobedience, we were locked away from God through spiritual death. No matter how hard we might try on our own, we could not come to Him. So in order for God to save us, He had to come to us.

This is the story of the Gospel—the eternal story of God’s grace.

Chapter 4

The Last Adam

So what did God do to save us? He sent another Adam to this earth—the Man called “the last Adam,” whom Paul revealed as none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:45-47

The mission of this last Adam was the same as the first—to create a race of people God could once again call His family. This is what it means to be born again—to become a child of God and thereby partake of His nature.

The Miracle Of the New Birth

You see, after I was born again, I no longer possessed a sin nature inherited from the first man Adam. Instead, I possessed the nature of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. I'd inherited His nature when I received Him as my Savior. Paul explained it this way in First Corinthians 15:49: **And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

I am no longer of the earthly but of the heavenly. I no longer belong to the family of the first man Adam but of the last Adam. Jesus has broken the power of sin, and I have been born again. I belong to a new family—the family of God. I am now a new creation in Christ and have been freed once and for all from the bondage of the sin nature!

Born of God, Not of Man

This explains why Jesus had to be born of a virgin and conceived of the Holy Spirit. Had He come through the lineage of Adam, Jesus' father would have been Adam rather than God. In that case, Jesus would have inherited the same spiritual death as the rest of the human race.

But Jesus was **NOT** conceived of Adam. He was born of God; therefore, the bloodline between Jesus and Adam was broken.

For the first time since Adam's fall, a Man was born free of sin. Adam, the first man ever created, was fathered of God. In a similar sense, Jesus Christ, the last Adam, was also born directly of God. Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and therefore possessed the same perfect nature the first man Adam had before his separation from God.

Mankind's catastrophe came when Adam forfeited his sin-free nature through disobedience. In the ages to follow, the entire human race would inherit the penalty for his transgression.

But then the last Adam was born.
Once again, Someone walked on this
earth who possessed the same sin-free
nature the first man Adam had before
the fall.

That's why Jesus could become our
sin. Notice He didn't become a **SINNER**;
He became our **SIN**. There's a
difference. Second Corinthians 5:21
explains this principle: **For he hath
made him to be sin for us, who knew
no sin; that we might be made the
righteousness of God in him.**

Jesus took man's place in
judgment so the legal claims against
mankind would be satisfied and the
high courts of Heaven could once
again rule in favor of the human race.

Chapter 5
He Creates in Us
A New Heart

I will never forget the impact on my heart when I first understood what happened to Jesus as He was nailed to the Cross. He died in my place for my sin. The punishment I deserved was laid upon Him.

**Our Death Penalty Fulfilled
Through Jesus**

Matthew 27:46 says that as Jesus hung on that Cross, He cried out in a loud voice: **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** You see, for a space in time, the Father had to turn His back on His Son. Why? Because the punishment that was long ago pronounced on the first man Adam—the death penalty we all deserved—was fulfilled through Jesus, the last Adam, as He tasted death for every man. He died for my sins and for yours.

Jesus was born with the same sinless nature Adam had before his fall. And because the claims of justice against the human race were fulfilled by Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, you can now receive that same sinless nature. All you have to do is become born again, believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that Jesus died in your place and that God truly raised Him from the dead.

**That if thou shalt confess
with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart**

that God hath raised him from
the dead, thou shalt be saved.
Romans 10:9

The Gift of a New Nature

The Bible says if any person believes on Jesus, he can be saved. The charges that were lodged against the human race when Adam fell are dropped for **ANYONE** who accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior.

**He that believeth on the Son
hath everlasting life: and he that
believeth not the Son shall not
see life; but the wrath of God
abideth on him.**

John 3:36

This act of believing frees the Holy Spirit to do the work of regeneration in our spirit. By an act of divine creation, He takes out our old nature and creates in us a clean heart—a new nature that is free from sin. The Holy Spirit literally frees us from the old sin nature we inherited from Adam and gives us a brand-new nature, inherited from God through Jesus.

This is what Jesus was talking about in John 3:3,6:

**Jesus answered and said
unto him [Nicodemus], Verily,
verily, I say unto thee, Except a
man be born again, he cannot
see the kingdom of God. . . .**

**That which is born of the
flesh is flesh; and THAT WHICH IS
BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT.**

What did Jesus mean when He said, **That which is born of the Spirit is spirit?** He was saying that the part

of you which is born of the Holy Spirit is your human spirit.

But notice also what Jesus said about the flesh: **That which is born of the flesh is flesh.** In other words, the only way you came to this earth was through a natural birth made possible by your mother and father. There is no other entry into this earthly life.

Similarly, the only way you can enter the Kingdom of God is through a spiritual rebirth. Being good will not get you in. Good works will not get you in. Your spirit man must be born again.

Mule or Racehorse?

The world is full of religion, which always tries to change people from the way they are now to something they're supposed to be. Religion teaches people to observe a certain set of morals or teachings so they can earn their entry into some kind of afterlife that's supposed to be better than the earthly life they're living now.

The problem is, you can't make a racehorse out of a mule, because when you finish cropping the mule's ears and grooming his tail, he'll still be a mule! You can spend a lot of money on cosmetic surgery for the mule, but after you've done all you can do, you'll still be disappointed. When the starter gate is opened and the race begins, he will still run like a mule because he has the heart of a mule and not of a racehorse. The only way he can BE a racehorse is to be BORN a racehorse.

Your New Nature— The Holiest of Holies

Likewise, the only way you can be free from sin is to be born again. At the moment of your rebirth, a creative process known only to God takes place inside your spirit that makes you a new creation. This supernatural process literally translates you out of the kingdom of darkness into God's Kingdom of light. Your spirit is no longer born of the first Adam. You don't belong to that family anymore. Now you are born of the last Adam, Christ Jesus. Now you belong to HIS family.

When that act of re-creation occurs, God takes your spirit out of Satan's jurisdiction and puts it into His. Your spirit man—with its new nature—is no longer accessible to the devil. It has now become a New Covenant type of the Holiest of Holies.

Under the Old Covenant, no one but the high priest was allowed in the Holiest of Holies, and he could only enter once a year to offer a sacrifice for the people's sins.

**And after the second veil,
the tabernacle which is called
the Holiest of all;
Which had the golden
censer, and the ark of the
covenant overlaid round about
with gold, wherein was the
golden pot that had manna, and
Aaron's rod that budded, and
the tables of the covenant;
And over it the cherubims of
glory shadowing the mercyseat;
of which we cannot now speak
particularly.**

Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.

But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

Hebrews 9:3-7

The Holiest of Holies was outside everyone's jurisdiction except the high priest. If an unauthorized person ever dared to enter that most sacred place, someone would have to reach in with a long hook to pull out his corpse!

Well, your human born-again spirit is outside all others' jurisdiction as well. Only your High Priest, Jesus Christ, may enter. And if the devil ever had the audacity to try to penetrate your recreated spirit, God would take his head off at the shoulders!

Get this revelation deep in your heart—you are out of Satan's jurisdiction! He has no more dominion over you. The power of sin has been broken over your life. Sin can no longer make you do what you don't want to do.

The one-time event of the Cross broke sin's dominion over you once and for all the moment you received Jesus as your Savior. In the miracle of the new birth, you were transformed in your spirit man from a "mule" to a "racehorse" as the Holy Spirit created in you a brand-new heart!

Chapter 6

The Power of the Rebirth

So for all of you parents whose children once served God but are now tasting of the world's ways—don't give up! Don't underestimate the power of the rebirth and the mark it leaves on the conscience of a person who is trying to run away from God.

Proverbs 22:6 says, **Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.** This doesn't guarantee that your children will never taste of the world. But it does mean they can never get away from the God-consciousness you have instilled in them.

A Young Man Named 'Fort'

I learned about the power of the new birth early in my Christian walk. When I first moved to Oregon from Los Angeles, I was twenty-four years old and had only been saved for a few years. The first job I got after moving there was in the timber industry felling trees.

There was another young man on the logging crew who was also from Los Angeles. We nicknamed him "the L. A. Kid" but finally just called him "Fort" because he was staying with his sister in a small, nearby town called Fort Klamath.

Fort was as skinny as a rail. He was also a habitual liar, a drug addict, and an alcoholic. All he did was lie, party, and take drugs. The boss didn't like either one of us very much. (He

didn't like me because I wouldn't stop preaching to him!) So he put me and Fort together on the same crew and assigned us to a location away from himself.

In those days, I was almost totally void of wisdom. The truth was, I was more noise than example. I didn't know God very well, but in my zeal, I loved Him. So I went to work on getting Fort born again. Anytime Fort would turn off his saw for a break, I'd begin to preach. You should have seen how quickly he turned his saw back on again!

But I finally broke down Fort's resistance and talked him into getting saved. Back then I lived according to my Holiness roots, and there was no such thing as a simple prayer of salvation. We did what we called "praying the sinner through." We kept praying with the person needing salvation until he "felt" something—and Fort finally did after an all-night session in a tent with me and another Christian lumberman!

As Fort sat there, the two of us walked around the tent with uplifted hands, worshiping the Lord and trying to pray Fort through to salvation. Then all of a sudden, in the early hours of the morning, the Presence of God entered that tent. I fell over backwards onto a cot and began laughing hilariously in the Holy Ghost. I became so drunk in the Spirit that I couldn't rise off the cot. In the midst of all this, Fort was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. All three of us prayed in tongues and rejoiced in the Holy Ghost until dawn.

You should have seen Fort after that night in the logging camp tent. He ran around telling everyone what had happened to him!

This went on for a few days, but then Fort disappeared. When he finally came back a few days later, he didn't want to see me or talk to me. He'd been drinking and partying for three days and didn't want anything more to do with the Gospel. He'd become the laughingstock of the camp.

After picking up his paycheck, Fort left again, and that was the last I saw of him.

Years Later— Fort's Testimony

Approximately six years later, I entered the ministry. After preaching for about a year and a half, I came to Klamath Falls, Oregon to conduct a camp meeting. Several local pastors were cooperating together to sponsor the meeting.

At the end of the first evening service (in which God performed many miracles), I sat down in the back room to rest. Suddenly, a chubby young man stepped into the doorway and asked, "Do you remember me?"

I looked at him and replied, "No."

"I used to work with you in the woods felling trees," the man said. "My name is . . ." and he told me his name. The name didn't jog my memory either. Then he added, "You guys gave me the nickname 'Fort.'"

I replied, "The only Fort I knew was as skinny as a rail, a dope head, and a habitual liar."

He smiled and said, "That was me."

"No! You couldn't be him!" I exclaimed.

I questioned the young man until he finally convinced me. Amazed, I asked, "What are you doing in my meeting?"

"Haven't you heard?" he asked. "I'm one of the cooperating pastors!" He smiled at the look of shock and disbelief on my face. I stuttered, "For the love of Heaven, what happened to you? Please tell me!"

Fort explained to me how he had gone back to Los Angeles and done nothing but party as hard as he could for the next few years after getting saved in that logging camp tent. But something on the inside of him wouldn't leave him alone; it convicted him day and night.

To make matters worse, a Pentecostal church was located on the way to work! The congregation would keep the church windows open, and Fort would hear them preach the Word and worship God as he drove by.

Fort told me, "Every time I heard those Christians, my insides would go wild and conviction would take me to new levels. One day, I just couldn't take it any longer. As I drove by, I broke down and began to weep. So I parked the car, walked into that little

church, surrendered to God, and never looked back. Now I'm one of their pastors! I just wanted to come and thank you for leading me to the Lord.”

As I listened to Fort's testimony, I was overcome with such a deep sense of God's reality. I loved Him so much! I vowed to never underestimate the power of the rebirth again. I saw more clearly than ever before that Jesus is the Daystar who shines down into a heart overwhelmed by darkness and gives it light.

There is absolutely nothing like the miracle of the new birth. No creative process in this universe compares to what takes place in the human spirit when a person says to Jesus, “I receive You as my Savior.”

All of Creation held its breath, waiting for God's awesome plan of redemption to be fulfilled. All the Old Testament saints longed to be a part of this day we live in—a day in which we can lift our face toward Heaven and proclaim in faith:

**“I HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN.
I AM NO LONGER THE SAME,
FOR YOU HAVE CREATED IN ME
A NEW HEART!”**

Prayer of Salvation

If you've never been born again, you are still locked outside of God, in bondage to a sin nature from which you can't escape on your own. Only through faith in Jesus Christ can you receive the new nature that sets you free from sin.

Do you believe that Jesus actually died for your sins and rose again to give you new life? Would you like to receive Him as your Lord and Savior right now? If so, please pray the following prayer from your heart:

Lord Jesus,

I want to be born again.

Please come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I receive You now as my Lord and Savior. I receive God as my Father.

The Bible says:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:9,10).

Lord, I believe You are my Savior, and I now confess with my mouth that You are my Lord. Thank You for saving me. Amen.

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, I want to extend to you my hand in friendship and welcome you to the family of God! Please write us at the address on the back of this booklet. We'd like to hear about your decision for Christ and help you get

started in living a victorious life as a child of God!

The Transforming Power Of the New Birth

What exactly takes place in your life when you receive Jesus as your personal Savior? Discovering the answer to that question is the first step out of continual defeat into a life of power and victory! In *The Miracle of the New Birth*, Dave Roberson explains the creative process that takes place at the moment of salvation—a supernatural process that transforms your nature and sets you free forever from the dominion of sin.

So get ready for a deeper revelation of the change that occurs inside you when you are born again. It's far more than you've ever dreamed, imagined, or conceived!

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