



**GracePolarisChurch**

## What is Salvation?

What did Jesus mean when He said, “You must be born again” (John 3:7)? Nicodemus, the religious leader to whom Jesus was speaking, asked if that meant becoming a baby a second time (v 4). Jesus explained that He was talking about *spiritual* rebirth (v 5-8).

We need to be reborn because we are spiritually dead. Our sin has separated us from a life-giving relationship with God. We all have sinned by violating His perfect moral standards (Romans 3:23), and so we all are guilty and deserving of God’s judgment (John 3:18-21).

What every person needs is the forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus made possible through His sinless life, His sacrificial death on the cross, and His resurrection. Spiritual rebirth occurs when a person exercises genuine trust in Christ as Savior and Lord (v 14-18). At that point a believer experiences God’s forgiveness and a radical transformation at the very core of his being (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Christianity was never intended to be merely a “fire escape” from hell. Being born again is the beginning of a whole new life. We are to grow up into mature men and women of faith. This process is often difficult, costly, and unrewarding by the world’s standards. But it is a beautiful transformation in the eyes of God.

Above all else, we must realize that it’s impossible to please God without a life-changing personal encounter with Christ. This involves recognizing that we need a Savior, accepting the gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), and trusting in Jesus as our only hope of being right with God now and living with Him forever (Romans 6:23).

Have you been born twice?