

*What Happens
When You're
Born Again?*

*Discover what Jesus really did
when He lived, died, and ascended
to heaven as our High Priest.*



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE BORN-AGAIN?

Who hasn't heard of Jesus? You can travel from California, to New York, to Florida and back, never meeting anyone unaware of Jesus Christ. "Born-again" is also a term common to most people. Unfortunately, of those familiar with it, few are confident enough in their knowledge of their own new birth experience to share it with others. While most people understand little about their own salvation, many struggle with a weak, shallow Christian experience throughout their entire lives.

Being born-again is the single most important experience a person will ever have. We must understand this marvelous gift of salvation to appreciate it. There's no guarantee that we've made it just because we accepted Jesus when we were six or because Mom and Dad were Christians. God has no grandchildren. We will regret basing our salvation on a childhood commitment or on someone else's relationship. If you're uncomfortable when you think about judgment at the end of this age, or if the Pastor's message makes you nervous, maybe you should look inside your own heart to see what is really there. You can't afford to make a mistake here because it could be fatal.

HOW PAINFUL ALMOST TO GET A SITUATION, BUT TO MISS IT.
HOW VEXING ALMOST TO CATCH A PLANE, BUT TO BE LEFT AT THE AIRPORT.
HOW SAD ALMOST TO ESCAPE DROWNING, BUT TO BE ENGULFED IN WATER.
BUT, OH, HOW ABOVE-ALL-THINGS TERRIBLE TO BE ALMOST A CHRISTIAN
AND YET IN THE LAKE OF FIRE FOR ETERNITY!
IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE ROAD TO HELL
IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
MAY IT NOT BE SAID ALSO THAT IT WILL BE TRODDEN
BY MILLIONS OF ALMOST CHRISTIANS!
OH, BE WARNED, THEN ,AGAINST BEING AN ALMOST-ER,
FOR TO BE ALMOST SAVED IS TO BE CERTAINLY LOST!

If you can relate to these words you could be an almost-er. Maybe now would be a good time to ask God to remove these doubts and fears. Getting saved is easy. You simply ask God to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins. When He does this, you ask Him to be the Lord of your life and you then submit your life to Him. After you've taken this most crucial step you can continue on to understand what just happened. This study will help you learn how to continue in the path you've chosen for your life.

1. *What is Jesus saying in John 3:3?* _____

2. *What does Eze. 36:26 say that God will do?* _____

Through the centuries Satan has successfully deceived man by convincing him that there is all kinds of time. We hear a voice whispering, "What's the hurry? Why rush? Do it tomorrow." Innumerable millions have blindly followed Satan to their own ruin. The Bible doesn't promise us a tomorrow.

3. *Fill in the blank with the Scripture reference to the brevity of man's life.*

- a. *Like a vanishing vapor* _____
- b. *Only a handbreadth in existence* _____
- c. *Like hurrying messengers* _____
- d. *Like a flying shuttle* _____
- e. *Like a shadow* _____
- f. *Like a weaver's web* _____

I Chronicles 29: 15

Job 7:6

Isaiah 38:12

Job 9:25

Psalms 39:5

James 4:14

REGENERATION: SPIRITUAL RENOVATION

One name Scripture uses for being born-again is regeneration. This is simply spiritual renovation. Paul says it is "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*" (Titus 3:5). To renew something means to make it new or to restore it to the first state or to a good state. People do this with houses or cars. They buy an old house and fix-it-up. They hire contractors to make cabinets, repair walls, and add windows, carpet, paper, paint and whatever else it takes to make it useful, beautiful, and valuable. When it is completed, it is like a new home.

Our spirit is like that house when we're born-again. This process extends to the whole nature of man: changing our heart, illuminating our mind, and freeing our will. Jesus puts His Spirit into our spirit through prayer. Both Jesus and the new convert must work together to nurture this union. Like the house, Jesus takes our heart, room by room, closet by closet, cleans it and takes possession of it as His property. He moves through it



applying His blood: cleansing our dark conscience and sweeping cobwebs out of our spirit and soul. He doesn't complete all His work in one day. It probably takes our contractors weeks or even months to complete the house, depending on how badly it needs repairs. Jesus will continue working on us until we are a fit home for the Holy Spirit.

Find the Scriptures below and tell what each says about its subject.

4. *Changing our heart* - _____ - _____

5. *Illuminating our mind* - _____ - _____

6. *Freeing our will* - _____ - _____

2 Corinthians 4:6

Ezekiel 36:26

Romans 8:2

Man was originally a perfect creation. This is where the we get the term regeneration. After making all the creatures, the earth, the sky, and the vegetation, ". . . God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (*Gen. 1:26,31*). It was only after Adam willfully disobeyed God that man was no longer very good. God knew that Adam would fall. Nevertheless, He had to give him the chance. If Adam had obeyed and refuse to eat from the forbidden tree, man would have had a completely different relationship with God. He did disobey, however, and he did fall, thus requiring spiritual renovation.

Imagine a bombed out three-story building. The bomb destroys the ceilings between the floors. The top floor falls into the second floor and both the third and the second floors collapse into the bottom floor. This is what man's spirit and soul were like after the fall. Both had "fallen" in the first floor, the body.

God gave man a human spirit so that He could bring His own Spirit

into it and live within our human nature. Thus, making us spiritual beings. First, however, we had to pass a test. There were several reasons for this test. The important one for now is that God had to prove our nature. Adam had to decide whether to obey God and continue unbroken communion with Him or if he would sacrifice his relationship with God and seek knowledge his own way. Of course, he chose the latter and connected man to the lower nature through his body. Man's spirit and soul crashed into the bottom floor, the body.

What do the following Scriptures tell us about regeneration?

7. *Eze. 36:26* - _____

8. *John 1:13* - _____

9. *2 Cor. 5:17* - _____

10. *Titus 3:5* - _____

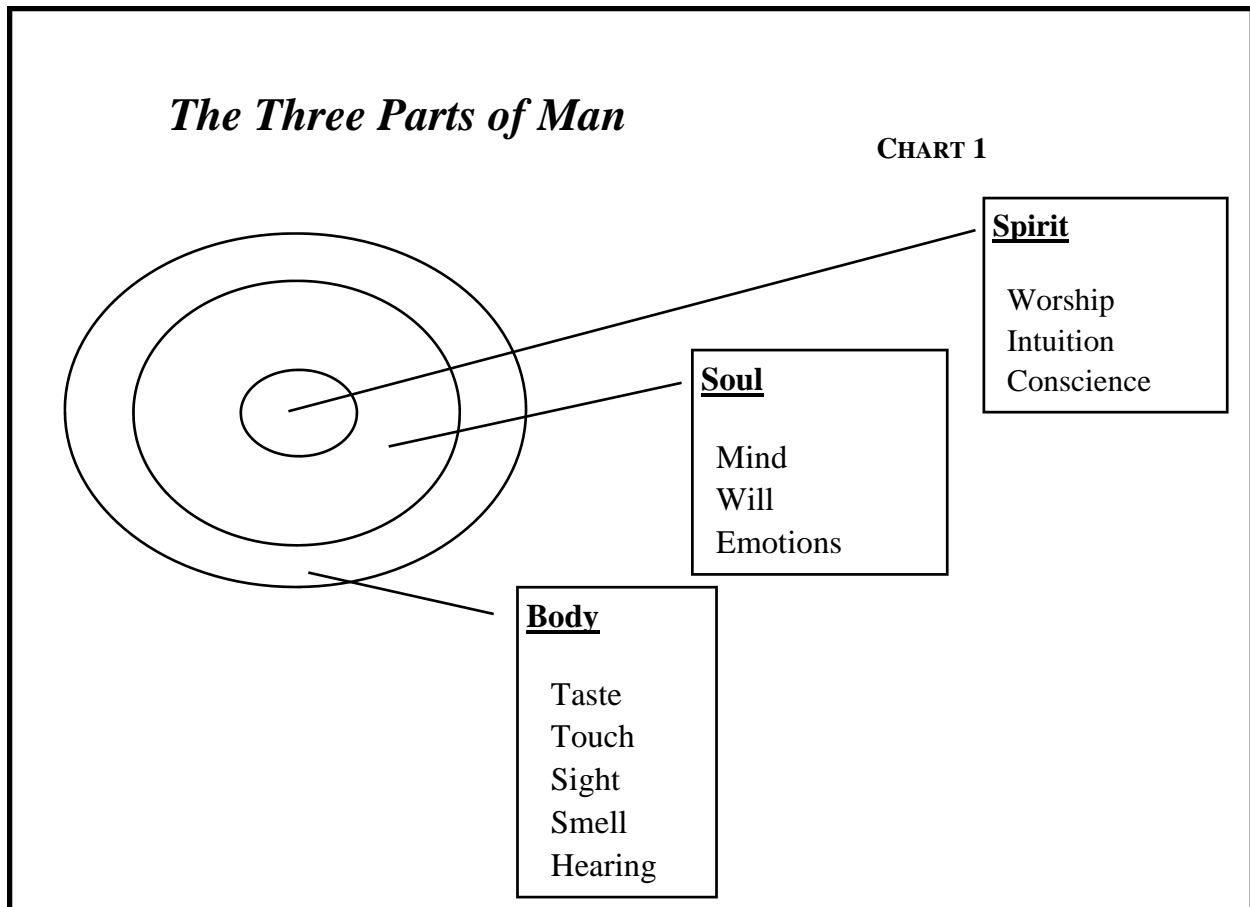
11. *1 Peter 1:23* - _____

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23; See Chart 1). With these words of encouragement Paul introduced the Scriptural separation of the three parts of man: body, soul and spirit. God created man with these three divisions within his being. All three were clean and free from sin because there was no sin in the world at the time of creation.

The soul is the inner part of man that makes him an individual and

gives him personality. It's the part of us that's conscious of self: the actual self we must conquer. We find the soul in self-awareness, or, in the personal pronoun I. In Science it's called the ego, or Id. The soul is one of the central parts of man. We can win the soul to Christ and continue eternally in heaven, or, we can refuse Christ, separating ourselves from God for eternity. If we lose the soul, we lose the man. We cannot separate the individual from the soul.

Before the fall we were connected to God's Spirit through our spirit. This is how Adam knew and related to Him. If Adam had continued to obey God we would have a permanent connection to Him through His Spirit: becoming spiritual beings. Through rebellion they cut our connection to God through the spirit. This resulted in connecting man's nature to the world through the body, making us fleshly beings instead of spiritual ones.



Until they ate the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve weren't even aware of their bodies. Genesis, Chapter Three tells us what happened immediately after they sinned, *"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked . . . And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"* (Genesis 3: 7-11).

Notice it says **the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked**. They had always been naked. That didn't change. It was only after their spirits died that their souls became sensitive to the feelings of the body and aware of the elements around them. Nakedness had never been anything of which to be ashamed. When they sinned their conscience came alive and their bodies were awakened. They only became afraid when their bodies woke to new feelings and drives. God asked them who told them they were naked. He knew there was only two ways that they would be aware of themselves and their bodies and their nakedness: if someone had told them, or if they disobeyed and awoke their conscious mind to their own existence. (God knew before they did it what would happen. He wanted to hear their response).

12. *Why did Adam and Eve feel shame over their nakedness?* _____

13. *What does the Scripture mean that says the eyes of them both were opened?* _____

14. *Paraphrase Genesis 3: 17-19 -* _____

The curse wasn't God's angry response to man's disobedience. He didn't curse the world to strike out at us or to punish us. God wasn't getting even when He told us that we must struggle for our survival. Absolutely not. The curse already existed. It was the natural result of living outside of God's Law. As long as Adam obeyed God and stayed within the boundaries God had set for him, the curse that Satan and his angels were under wouldn't affect him. When he disobeyed God, he stepped outside of God's protection into the already existing and operating effects of the curse.

Like the "spiritual laws", there are natural laws in our world that we don't notice because they're so familiar to us. One natural law is the law of gravity. Unless you study physics or aerodynamics you probably seldom think about it. It's a law that works for us whether we are aware of it or not. Gravity existed before you were born. It always works the same way. When you get out of bed in the morning, you don't have to worry that you may float away. You simply step out of bed and begin walking.

What happens to the man on top of a ten-story building and who begins to question whether the law of gravity is real? Perhaps someone has been lying to him all these years. Maybe there is no law of gravity. He may decide to test this law by stepping off the ledge. He will quickly find out that whether he believes in gravity or not the outcome is the same. He can cry out, "There is no such thing as gravity!" all the way to the ground. It won't matter. The end will be the same despite his belief or unbelief.

15. *If the curse was not God's angry response to man's disobedience, what was it?* _____

16. *Explain how the spiritual laws are like natural laws?*_____

Man's death to God is a significant part of the curse. With the law of spiritual death, Adam brought the physical results of death into the universe. Unless we are raptured, we will die. Death and decay are part of nature. When our body wears out or gets destroyed, it dies.

Man once lived in God's presence, receiving the satisfaction of all his drives from Him. Now he draws that fulfillment from the world around him through his body. The sensors feeding information to the soul are located in the body. These sensors affect how we feel. The palms of our hands and our fingers contain about two-thirds of the body's sensors. Through touch we collect information and reach conclusions about the world around us. Our eyes, ears, noses, hands, and tongues gather most of the data used to influence the direction of our lives.

We don't want to exalt the body too highly, but we can't depreciate its value either. It's through the body that we reach out to the world beyond ourselves. Without it, we have no connection to this world. The body is like the vehicle for our soul.

Most of us can barely function without a car. We drive to work, to day-care, to church, and to shop. If you're like most families you probably need the car to run to the store for a bag of ice. Lack of transportation limits what we can do and where we can go. Even our time and schedule don't really belong solely to us if we must catch rides with others. We usually have to do it on some else's schedule. This sometimes leaves us waiting when we would rather be doing something else.

If our car breaks down it restricts where we can go. Our body is like our car. It's transportation for the soul and the spirit. The same thing happens to us if the body breaks down. It confines our reach and influence.

We may not like the body we have, but if we take care of it, barring any unforeseen accidents, or illness, it will last for many years. It can only stay alive with the other two parts of man living within it: the soul and the spirit. If it wears out or gets destroyed these immediately enter the presence of the Lord.

17. *Why do humans draw their fulfillment from the world around them through their bodies?* _____

18. *Complete the following sentence from the above paragraphs.*

*Our _____, **ears**, _____,
and _____ gather most of the _____ we used to decide what
will influence the _____.*

19. *How is the body like the vehicle for our soul?* _____

Man's spirit died in the fall. Because of our separation from God we could no longer see, hear, know, or feel His presence. Through His Spirit, God moves into the spirit of man when we're born-again. The human spirit is God's doorway to the soul. In the spirit we find man's conscience, his intuition or the faculty he uses to recognize God, and his ability to worship God.

Paul said a lot about the conscience. The conscience is the sentry or watchman to the inner man. We can't rely on it alone because through abuse and misuse it may be dark. Nevertheless, when the Word of God cleans it, and we diligently protect it, it can be very reliable. Man's intuition is simply the part of us that recognizes God in our lives and in the world around us. A pure conscience and a sensitive intuition allow us the freedom to worship.

Find the Scriptures below and tell what each says about its subject.

20. *man's conscience* - _____ - _____

21. *man's intuition* - _____ - _____

22. *man's worship* - _____ - _____

John 4:24

Timothy 1:5

Proverbs 15:14

The soul and the Spirit are actually separate from each other and have different jobs. For our purpose, however, we call both the soul and the spirit together what the Bible calls it: the heart. *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"* (Prov. 4:23). Scripture uses the word heart when it refers to the desires, affections, the perceptions, thoughts, understanding, reasoning powers, imaginations, conscience, intentions, purpose, will, and faith. We can understand it easily by remembering that the spirit is the part of man that knows and the soul is the part that feels. The heart is the soul and spirit working together to make our character and personality.

23. *Complete the following sentence.*

Scripture uses the word heart when it is referring to the _____

24. *The spirit is the part of man that _____, the soul is the part that _____.*

25. *The heart is the soul and spirit working together to make our _____*

and _____.

26. Match the letter of each Scripture reference to what it says about the heart.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| a. | Mat 6:21 | _____ | Make melody in your heart |
| b. | Mat 12:35 | _____ | The Word written tables of the heart |
| c. | Mat. 15:18 | _____ | Faith removes mountains |
| d. | Mark 11:23 | _____ | Must be circumcised |
| e. | John 14:1 | _____ | Your heart is in your treasure |
| f. | Romans 2:29 | _____ | Doing the will of God from the heart |
| g. | Rom 10:8 | _____ | Word of faith is in the heart |
| h. | 2 Corinthians 3:3 | _____ | Speech comes from the heart |
| i. | Ephesians 5:19 | _____ | Treasures of the heart brings good or evil |
| j. | Ephesians 6:6 | _____ | Don't let heart be troubled |

RECOGNITION: KNOWING WE 'RE GUILTY!

The first step to being born-again is to know that we're guilty. This knowledge doesn't begin by our own volition. God stirs our heart and calls us to it. There's nothing good in man. This includes our desire to know God. God placed the seed of this desire into our heart at creation. Yet, He must quicken and bring it to life. When He does, we start seeing Him in everything we do. We fear Him because our basic human nature is corrupt and we know that we can't stand justified in His presence.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). God says this because few people initially come to Him because of any love they have for Him. It's fear that brings most people. As we see ourselves in the mirror of His judgment we tremble in terror before Him. We know that we'll meet Him one day to account for what we've done in life. We know there's no justification besides Christ's and we quake with fear.

A healthy fear of God reveals our need for salvation. There are many in which the fear of God has turned to bitterness and anger. This is an unhealthy fear. They looked at the nail-scarred-hand reaching out to them across the abyss of destruction. They chose not to receive the gift that God so lovingly and freely gave. Because of their denial of Christ, they are angry and bitter. They've chosen hell and still refuse to repent and receive salvation.

Our nature changed after the fall. We don't love God just because He is God. It's only after we get saved that we *learn* to love Him. We learn to trust Him as our relationship grows. As we experience new proofs of His love we learn to trust Him.

Since Eden, man's natural inclination is to hide from God, trying not to think about Him. This usually leads to filling our time and minds with other activities. We try to stay busy and keep our minds off our problems. Many people can't sleep without the noise of the radio, television, or music in their room. This is often because they need the music to keep their thoughts from eternal matters.

27. *What do the following Scriptures tell us about the fear of the Lord?*

a. *Eccl. 12:13* - _____

b. *Mat. 10:28* - _____

c. *1 Peter 1:17* - _____

d. *1 Peter 2:17* - _____

Fear of the Lord is to know the results of our disobedience. It's to know that God is serious and that only through Jesus Christ can we avoid hell. This drives us into the arms of our loving, merciful, and longsuffering God. Here is the beginning of wisdom. At this point an intelligent person begins to seek wisdom by turning to God for the answers.

SON OF MAN - SON OF GOD:

Jesus had two important reasons for becoming a man and living in the flesh. He told His Disciples: . . . *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10)*. This powerful statement has two important clauses. Each is rich with meaning.

The first clause, *"I am come that they might have life"* was a reference to the atonement. Had Jesus not come there would be no life for man. The death principle dominated the universe and there was no power available to stop it. As we mentioned earlier, Adam's sin and failure introduced death into the world. Only after we understand what the first Adam did in Eden and it's effect on us, can we appreciate and understand what Jesus, the Second Adam, really did on the cross.

Lucifer had deceived one-third of the angels into rebelling against God and His government. God ejected these fallen angels from the holiness of heaven. He could never allow anything unholy to remain there. To do so would destroy the sinless, beauty of His divine kingdom.

Earth was the perfect place to confine these malefactors. God could have simply annihilated this rebel who had loosened so much evil with his pride and lust for power. He could have vaporized these evil angels with a mere thought. Our Creator, however, had a plan. He would

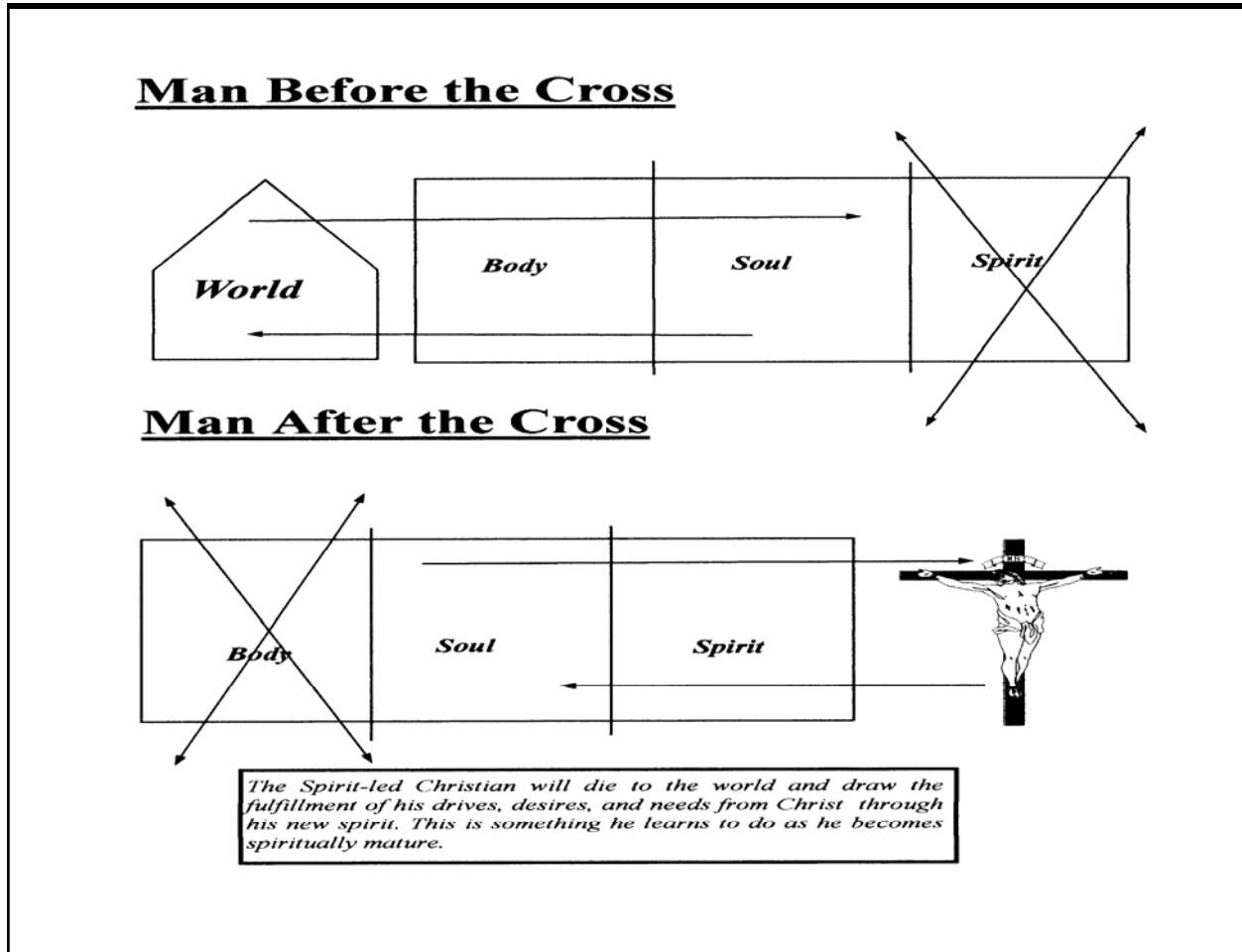
avoid future uprisings of rebellion in His kingdom and show the watching hosts, those who had been so faithful to Him, the true nature of sin. He would deal with it here and never have another rebellion with the death of the guilty. This would eliminate the possibility of a repeated cycle of rebellion and death throughout eternity.

What better way to end all possible traces of sin than to plant a beautiful garden on this little planet, Earth? Sin must run its appointed course. Many people don't understand why a God of love allows so much suffering in the world. God doesn't cause man's suffering; sin causes man's suffering.

One day God will return and remove all scars of sin. His children will go into eternity with an understanding of the price of their redemption. God is eliminating all hints of possible future rebellion by lovingly showing every creature, angelic and human, the real nature of His grace and sin's devastating nature.

God created a new creature that had never existed before and placed him in this garden. This new creature was dependent on God for his existence. Yet, he also could choose for himself whether he would obey Him or not. Adam had the freedom to choose. Although he didn't realize the eternal results of either, God gave him two choices.

God told Adam not to eat of from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil or he would die. Adam didn't understand that the death would also be spiritual. He had never heard of death. It was a whole new concept. How could he understand the full ramifications of his actions? Adam looked up one day and there was his beloved Eve with the forbidden fruit in her hand. She had a look on her face he had never seen before. Of course circumstances would have been different had he refused her and said no. We so quickly judge Adam's sin. Although it



was monumental, we often fail to understand his choices.

Adam was lonely before God gave him this beautiful creature. She was part of him. God used Adam's own rib to make her body. Adam loved her. He did not fully understand the consequences of his actions. All he knew was that his Eve had done something God had told her to not do. He didn't know what her fate would be. Nevertheless, he joined her in it, probably because he loved her.

Eating the fruit sealed the destiny of every future child born into their marriage union. Earlier we talked about the three different parts of man: the body, the soul, and the spirit. God originally meant for man's spirit to house His Spirit; somewhat like it does today. Adam had to pass

a test. God could not allow man to eat of the Tree of Life and live eternally if there were a chance he may someday weaken, like Lucifer, and fall.

29. *What does it mean that God is letting sin run its course?* _____

30. *Why does God allow sin in the world?* _____

Adam's failure didn't catch God off guard. He expected it. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had already planned the next step in "Project Man". God knew that Adam would fall and doom all future generations to bondage and slavery of the lower, fleshly nature. Jesus, God's Son, stepped out of the glory of His home, taking up a temporary residence here. He was born of a virgin, and lived a life of sinless perfection.

As the Second Adam, Jesus died to sin. When He lived in His fleshly body He was alive to the power of sin and the pain and suffering it could cause Him. Through rejection, deprivation, persecution, and many other dealings with sinful man, sin continually tempted and hurt Him. When He laid down His life on the cross, He died completely to its power. Sin had no more dominion over Him, nor did it have power to hurt Him. Jesus redeemed mankind in this selfless act of love.

31. *How did Jesus die to sin?* _____

32. *Find the Scripture that calls Jesus the Second Adam and write it here.*

33. *Why is Jesus called the Second Adam?* _____

It's important to appreciate the price Jesus paid for our salvation. It's the only way to know the value of His sacrifice. The writer of Hebrews reveals, *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22). To purge is to "get rid of whatever is impure or undesirable." Blood is the only thing that can get rid of sin. For centuries God used the blood of animals to teach us the importance of Jesus' blood.

The Bible shows that it was necessary to shed blood for man from the very beginning. Immediately after declaring the curse on Adam and Eve, God had to kill an animal to provide clothing for them. Every important event in the Old Testament either preceded or followed animal sacrifice. God didn't demand this because of any need He had. It was done to illustrate the importance of Christ's blood to man's limited human understanding. It also revealed the immense sacrifice He would make for us.

Old Testament man had only one hope beyond the grave; this was God's promise to Abraham. God gave Moses the Law while Israel wandered in the desert. It was rigid. There was little flexibility in its demands. It declared "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

God promised Abraham a son who would be the source of a great nation. The nation of Israel would one day bring man's Redeemer into the world. Abraham believed God. This was the only way Old Testament saints could have hope. It was in the promise that *one day a Redeemer*

would come. Their hope was a future hope. They hoped that one day their Redeemer would be born of the seed of a woman.

The law was limited by what it could do for man. It could only point out our flaws. It told us how corrupt and evil we were. Yet we had no power to change. It was like receiving an invitation to an elegant dinner and standing in front of a mirror to get ready. In the glass you can clearly see a large smudge of dirt on your face and your uncombed hair. You try to wipe the dirt off your face and you realize that you can't move your arms. Time is passing quickly, but you can't wash your face or comb your hair. This is your only chance. You know you can never enter unless you are spotless. What can you do?

According to the law there was very little you could do except to wait on a promised comb, wash cloth, and the freedom to move so you can use them. There is nothing you can do. You are completely dependent on someone else. Jesus brought the wash cloth, the comb, and releases us to have the freedom to clean up. It all came by His blood. His blood washes and cleans our hearts, giving us the power over self and Satan to get cleaned-up and to stay cleaned-up.

34. *Why did God use the blood of animals throughout Scripture?* _____

35. *What was the one thing that gave people in the Old Testament hope?*

36. *What were the limitations of the law that changed because of the cross?*

It's for power over Satan, the world, and self that Jesus spoke the second clause in our text, *"and that they might have it (life) more abundantly"* (John 10:10). Abundant means bounteous, lavish,

abounding, and ample. God doesn't expect us to live shallow, weak, sickly lives. *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:37).*

Man's spirit was crushed in the fall. It was an unfit vessel for the Spirit of God. For generations, man's spirit remained crushed and broken. It was this way until Jesus Christ came and prepared a new vessel through His perfect sinless life.

In the Old Testament the Spirit of God never entered into, and lived inside man. He descended upon individuals for specific purposes, but He didn't remain and abide in anyone. It was only the ascension of Christ that made this possible.

Before Jesus went to the cross, the Holy Spirit was known as the Spirit of God. He was called the Holy Spirit only on three occasions; and all three referred to the Spirit of God the Father. He didn't have a separate, personal identity as He does today. They didn't call Him the Holy Spirit then, because until Jesus' death and resurrection the Holy Spirit worked with man somewhat differently. He was the Spirit of God, not the Spirit of Christ. There is a difference.

Let's see what Scripture tells us about the Spirit's coming. *"But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet **given**; because that Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39).* The original text didn't have the word given. Writers added it later when the phrase appeared incomplete and confusing. It was, however, clear in its original form. Everyone knows that the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are the exact same Spirit. Let's clear away any confusion about that. Scripture uses both terms and both are referring to the same person in the Godhead. In this writing we will use the term Holy Spirit.

Jesus enters our hearts when we get saved, then and only then do we learn who He is. We have no doubts at all that it's Jesus who is there. It is Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who has moved in. In this present dispensation of grace the Holy Spirit has received the power of the resurrection. It is the life of Christ, the resurrected life that

has already victoriously experienced death and won, which the Holy Spirit brings with Him into the heart of man. It's this power that He gives us to help us overcome and be victorious in our battles.

Although God was omnipotent before the cross, He was limited in how much freedom He had in the hearts and lives of men. There was no vessel for Him to live in: no spirit. The human spirit was dead and crushed. God had to make a new spirit. He tells us, "*A new heart also will I give you, **and a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh*" (Eze. 36:26). For God's plan to work He had to replace the dead, broken, useless spirit we inherited in the fall with a new spirit: one that He could dwell in. This is what Jesus did. It's what takes place the moment we're born-again.

38. *What happened to man's spirit in the fall?* _____

40. *Why did God's Spirit not live inside of men before the cross?* _____

45. *How did Jesus make a difference?* _____

Most Christians aren't aware of the extent of what Jesus achieved in His short thirty-three year life span. His life on earth as the Son of Man and the Son of God made the atonement possible. It is what gives us the freedom to remain here, in the depths of sin, to serve God after we're saved.

The First Adam's failure tainted all mankind with the curse. Jesus, however, wasn't corrupted by it. His mother was human and His natural father was God. He had the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of

any other man. The difference was that He didn't have Adam's dead, broken spirit. He had the spirit that Adam had before the fall, the one He received from God. This spirit came from His Father, God, just like we receive the broken one from our father, Adam. In Jesus, two different natures existed in one being: the nature of man and the nature of God. His human nature came from, Mary, His mother; His spiritual nature came from God, His Father.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that the sacrifices and temple worship on earth were types and shadows of the real temple activity in Heaven. In Judaism, the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies once a year with the blood of bulls and rams. Only one man entered, and then, only once a year. The high priest had to be ceremonially clean and free from sin. If he were not, he was instantly killed.

He wore bells on the bottom of his robe with a rope tied to his ankle. If the bells stopped ringing while he was in there those on the outside the massive curtain pulled his dead body out by the rope on his leg.

After living a sinless, perfect life, Jesus gave this life for the sins of the world. It was only then that He could go into the holy of holies in heaven, with His own blood, as the final sacrifice and as our High Priest. He did not, however, have a rope tied to his leg. He had no sin. He went in, as our High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek.

Before Jesus lived on earth He could enter the holy of holies in heaven at will. He could enter as part of the triune Godhead: as the Son of God. After He ascended to heaven, He entered into the holy of holies not as the Son of God; His entrance was as the Son of Man. There is an important distinction in this. Because He had both natures: the nature of God and the nature of man, He purified our corrupt human nature. He did this as a man. It took a man to pay the price for fallen man. When He prayed, when He fasted, when He bled, when He got angry, when He cried, and when He obeyed God: it was as a man. He redeemed our human nature *AS A MAN*. It was that human nature that went into the holy of holies and represented mankind.

Jesus opened the door back to God so that we can enter heavenly places with Him. There's only one requirement to go through this doorway. We must be born-again. When Jesus went into the holy of holies, He carried His own blood, which He placed upon the altar. This was the final sacrifice; the ultimate act of redemption. Only then could Jesus fulfil His promise when He said, "*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you . . .*" When you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to come into your life as your Savior, He can then, ". . . *take away the stony heart out of your flesh*" (Eze. 36:26). This gave Him the right to send the Holy Spirit back to work through the church.

46. *Why was Jesus called the Son of God?* _____

47. *Why was He called the Son of Man?* _____

48. *What did His sinless life do for His human nature?* _____

49. *What did he do for man as the Son of Man?* _____

REPENTANCE: RECEIVING THE NEW BIRTH

Acknowledging our need for Christ only gets us part of the way there. The next step is to act on what we know. To be born-again we must repent in true sorrow for our sins. To repent means to change one's mind or purpose.

No one needs to tell us we're guilty. We know that. We need someone to remove the guilt. This is what Jesus does. He takes the guilt upon Himself, and opens the door between God and man that was shut in the fall. He restores or renovates our spirit back to where it should be. Whether it's salvation of the soul, or continuing in our Christian

walk, both require the participation of all the soul's faculties: the mind, the will, and the emotions. There are four steps involved in this process.

1. **OPEN YOUR SPIRIT.** We can't receive salvation if we don't open our spirits. Jesus said it this way: *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, **and open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Rev. 3:20).* At first, we deal with God mainly through our mind. We must have an open mind that has made the right choice. We must want God! *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).* God will honor a desire like this.

When you install a satellite dish there has to be a connection made with the satellite. If there's not, when you turn on your TV you have no picture. The antenna is a large bowl shaped disk that faces the sky and catches the waves. Our spirit is like this antenna. We must turn it to face the Spirit coming from God. We have to open our spirit to Him so He can save our soul and commune with us.

The Holy Spirit gently whispers our name. He makes Himself known to us. As we ride in the car, or walk down the street, we suddenly think about God. Every time we find ourselves doing something that we feel displeases Him we shudder. Our mind races to the White Throne Judgment and we realize that we will eventually stand before Him and account for our lives. We dismiss it, of course. The Holy Spirit, however, doesn't give up on us. We find ourselves thinking about God often.

When God calls a person to salvation, He gives him every opportunity to find Him. If he doesn't accept the gift of salvation God is not responsible. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).* When God sends out the "spiritual waves" to us it is our responsibility to tune in to His frequency and receive His message.

2. **UNDERSTAND WITH YOUR MIND.** Our mind is so complex that we will never really understand it. The more we know, the more questions we have. What's important here is that we examine our decision and

accepted it through the mind. To grow in grace we must look at our options. We must examine our decisions with our intellect and DECIDE daily to place our life in His hands.

Many people think Christians mindlessly follow an influential or charismatic pastor, exchanging intellect for something mystical and spiritual. This isn't true. A Spirit-led Christian is someone who has had his mind and intellect challenged, expanded, and stimulated more because of his choice to become a Christian. He will go on to mature intellectually as he studies the Bible and relates it to the world around him. You do not have to turn your mind off to be a Christian. You just learn to use it more effectively.

The mind is one of three areas of the soul: the mind, the will, and the emotions. Before we do anything we make choices. Even to procrastinate and avoid making choices is actually a choice. We just have less control over the results of procrastination.

We contemplate all our choices through a complex reasoning process. The mind is like a filing cabinet. Every memory, every incident, even the smells associated with our memories are carefully filed away somewhere in our mind. The human mind has three levels of thinking: the conscious mind, the subconscious mind, and the unconscious mind. The conscious mind is that part of ourselves that is aware of who we are and our immediate surroundings. The subconscious mind is that part that never ceases its activities. It is always observing, analyzing, measuring, weighing, and filing. The unconscious mind is the deeper part where we file away not only our memories, but also our perception of those memories. It is the location of our habitual, learned, mechanical behavior.

The decision making process involves all three of these areas of thinking. The conscious mind considers the choices; the subconscious mind relates experiences and information to the conscious mind for evaluation; the unconscious mind sends signals to both the others that affect the final decision. The Christian who has yielded his life to the Holy Spirit will find that his mind is less cluttered and he has more

freedom to make correct choices. As we read, meditate, and study the Scriptures our logical powers of reason become stronger.

3. **CHOOSE WITH YOUR WILL.** We commonly hear the words "choose" and "will" together. The will has the final say on our choices. Anything new that becomes part of our character and personality must pass through a screening system. The will is the faculty that has the final say about all of our choices. Andrew Murray calls it the "Kingly power of the soul." Emotions, reason, conscience and all the other faculties of the heart influence our decisions. The will can only receive the necessary power, however, through a strong determination made in repentance through the emotions.

4. **REPENT THROUGH YOUR EMOTIONS.** Emotions are the part of the soul that feels. Everyone has them. The spiritual man is a complex being. We release large amounts of energy through our emotions. When we pray, we are to concentrate on God and what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. It connects us to God. W.M. Taylor once wrote: "True repentance hates the sin, and not merely the penalty; and it hates the sin most of all because it has discovered and felt God's love." This important principle changes many lives when we understand it. It is the fear of God that saves a soul. It is the love of God that keeps a soul. When we pray like this God will hear us and our soul knits to His.

50. *What does it mean to repent?* _____

51. *Complete the following sentence.*
When God sends out the "spiritual waves" to us it is our _____
_____.

52. *What are the three areas of the mind and what are their roles?*
a. _____ mind - _____

b. _____ mind - _____

c. _____ mind - _____

53. Why are the words "choose" and "will" commonly linked together?

54. Complete the following sentence.

The will is the faculty _____

55. Emotions are the part of the soul that _____.

56. What is the important principle that W.M. Taylor referred to?

57. It is the _____ of God that _____ a
soul; it is the _____ of
God that _____ a soul.

BELIEVE AND RECEIVE

God places His Spirit into us when we're born-again. This causes us to want to please Him and learn more about Him. The more we learn, the more we want to know. His Spirit lives in us. This means His mind is in us. His affections, His purpose, His intentions, His thoughts, and His conscience are there too. We should study the Word. This is where we find His Spirit, His mind, and His desires and affection.

Finally, we must BELIEVE GOD, and we must believe that He will keep us. We must trust Him to help us when we're in trouble, having confidence that adversity won't defeat us. We must know that we will always have this relationship and that He will save our soul when the

world meets its end.

In our walk with Christ we'll have many choices. If we allow God's Spirit to direct our decisions by its influence over the will, we'll grow stronger each day. Every day is a new day and every day has new opportunities and problems. By praying and giving God today's worries we can have a clean slate for tomorrow. We must trust God even when we don't really understand what He can possibly do in our situation. That's when we really see who God is.

Many years ago they decided to put a suspension bridge across a wide gorge. How could they build a bridge across such a wide space? How could they even start? They shot an arrow from one side to the other. The arrow carried a tiny thread across the gulf, establishing a connection. Eventually, they used the thread to draw a piece of twine across; the twine carried a small piece of rope after it; the rope soon carried a cable across—and in good time came the iron chain the bridge was to hang from. Although often weak in its beginning stage, a small faith can draw us to a stronger and stronger faith that will accomplish greater and greater deeds.

Pastor and author, Adrian Rogers, comments in his book, *The Secret of Supernatural Living*, "God has so engineered your mind that you cannot think two thoughts at one time. So if you are thinking what is right, you cannot be thinking what is wrong." Because we have the final say so about which thoughts we will think, we need to keep a check on our thoughts. God provided only one way! His!

God took a risk when He made the human mind. He runs the risk that many people will think wrong thoughts. Many do. We have choices every day. To be born-again is simply to choose a course of action and following through on that course as God leads us each day.

Soon after a family moved into their new house, it began to show the effects of their slipshod lifestyle. Trash littered the yard. The lawn withered for lack of care, and, even when replanted, died out again. To enter this house was to enter a shambles. It never was clean or in order.

Another family eventually bought the house and moved in. They

painted the house, cleaned up the yard, and replanted the lawn. The results were completely different. What had happened? There was a dramatic improvement in the appearance of the house because there was a change in those who lived there. In the same way, there will be a definite change in the life once he or she becomes a Christian, because there is a perfect new resident within, the Holy Spirit.