

**YE
MUST
BE
BORN
AGAIN**
SAYS THE MASTER

THOMAS J. MURPHY

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN, PAPERBACK

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DEDICATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All Glory to God the Father,
God the Son & God the Holy Ghost.

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Tell Giff, "I'll see him on the morrow."

CONTENTS

1	Initial Thoughts	1
2	The Necessity of It	10
3	The Blood	24
4	Religion v. Reality	36
5	Concluding Thoughts	51

CHAPTER 1

INITIAL THOUGHTS

The title to this book, of course, comes from John 3:7 in the New Testament in which Jesus declares to Nicodemus, a very upstanding man in Jewish Society, the requirement to enter into heaven. Jesus' simple, straight-forward response to Nicodemus' curiosity caught Nicodemus off-guard, which was apparent by his misunderstanding of Jesus' profound statement. Nicodemus could only comprehend it from a natural standpoint, "Can a man enter into his mother's womb a second time?" Obviously, this is a physical impossibility, but that's all he had to go by in his reservoir of mental perception. Jesus was speaking of another realm: the unseen realm, which is not seen in the natural but is seen in the spirit.

From the original Greek text, *born again* is *gennao anothēn* which means to be born or begotten from above or anew or again. This speaks of a spiritual transaction: a reality, not a theoretical belief or change of habit or attitude even though these can be and should be a result of the "born-again" experience. It implies that a fresh dynamism takes place from a non-natural or supernatural source. This is why it is a shocking statement, an affront to the

SAYS THE MASTER

natural man, because it utterly disables the idea of any logical or rational processes to ensure a safe passage into eternity. The Apostle Paul said, "The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit for they are foolishness unto Him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor 2:14.) As the old saying goes, "It is better felt than telt, caught than taught," meaning that one must experience it for themselves.

This is the main reason it is so difficult to communicate the truth of the reality of the born-again experience to humanity. Unless someone has truly experienced it, they cannot fully explain it. Personally, I grew up playing football for a predominant portion of my formative years and, in conversations with others of my peer group, I could easily differentiate the real football players from the "wannabes." The look in their eyes and their tone of voice distinguished their reality or talk thereof, and the level of enthusiasm was often the tell-tale sign. When something or someone is real to you, there is an innate desire to express it to others in some form, even if one does not consider himself or herself a communicator. Real communication is much more than words, though words are important.

The greatest experience that one can communicate in human life is that of love. This is the basis of the born-again experience: God's love for each and every person conceived in the womb. It's wonderful to know John 3:16 by heart, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

have everlasting life.” However, it’s an even greater epiphany to understand that God loves you personally. Think about that: out of all the billions of people that have been born throughout the ages, He knows and loves you personally. King David testified, “My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lower parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect, and in thy book all my members were fashioned when as yet there was none of them.” (Ps. 139:15-16.) What an awesome truth to ponder! The God of heaven and earth knew you and formed you in the womb! His love is beyond measure or comprehension, and absolutely puts to naught the vaulted intellectualism, the elitism, the syncretism, and the pride of this world. God’s love was and is so great for mankind in its sinful state that He sent the most precious treasure in the universe to the world: His Beloved Son, the pure, sinless, matchless, blessed Son of God! Apostle Paul states, “while we were sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8.) This is truly unconditional love: love given when nothing is expected in return. Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13.) Amen and amen!

This is the primary need of the human heart, not the physical but the spiritual. If you know that you are loved and can return love back, then you have a sense of fulfillment and destiny in life. The famous verse in 1 Corinthians 13, often quoted in wedding ceremonies, “...Now abideth faith, hope, love

SAYS THE MASTER

[charity in KJV] these three, but the greatest of these is love" is an undeniable truth. It is the motivation for everything God does, even sending His pure, sinless, pristine son to a sin-sick world to die for the sins of mankind so that we would have a way to be with God in eternity. Dottie Rambo penned this song that captures the message of God's love very well:

Song: If That Isn't Love...

*He left the splendor of Heaven
Knowing His destiny
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha
To lay down His life for me.*

Chorus:

*If that isn't love, then the ocean is dry
There's no stars in the sky
And the sparrow can't fly
If that isn't love.*

*Then Heaven's a myth
There's no feeling like this,
If that isn't love
Even in death, He remembered
The thief hanging by His side
And He spoke of love and compassion
Then He took Him to paradise
(Chorus)*

Elvis Presley recorded this song in 1974, and if you can listen to him sing this song and are not touched, then your wood is wet, you may need a heart check. How high, how wide, how deep is the love of God. But His love alone is not enough to save

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

anyone. It makes the provision for salvation and grants us the right to be born again. Ephesians 2:8-9, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Notice: by grace, not by love are you saved. G.R.A.C.E. means God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Grace comes from the Greek word *charis*, meaning the divine influence upon a soul and the reflection of it in one's life. In essence, for grace to take effect in its reality, there must be a **receiving** of it as well. John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power [the right] to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." Then John 1:13 establishes the basis of the born-again reality, though he does not use the expression itself, "...which were born not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." It is a spiritual birth. This is what lends credence to that old saying, "Born once, die twice; born twice, die once." A sobering but awesome truth. If all you have in this life is a physical birth, then you not only go through a physical death, but also a spiritual death according to Revelation 20:14-15, a most surreal moment. However, if you are not only here by being born in the natural but have been through a spiritual birth by being born again, then the second death has no power over you because of the life of God in you; thus, you only die physically.

The Bible is very clear on life, death, the judgment to come, heaven, hell, and eternity. It makes no place for ambiguity on critical issues of true reality. Purgatory, or the belief that there's a holding place

SAYS THE MASTER

after death for those whose judgment is still hangs in the balance, is a doctrine of man that was developed to soften and marginalize the sovereign rule and righteous execution of God's preordained laws of the universe and eternity. You are either a child of God through the born-again experience or you are not. This feel-good bromide that states, "we are all children of God" is a potentially dangerous misnomer which can ultimately lead men and women to hell. Yes, we are all God's creation, and He loves His creation, but He qualifies the sonship relationship only for those who have been born again. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26.) Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (Jn. 17:3.) The word for *know* in the Greek, is *ginosko*, which means an intimate knowledge, and is something much deeper than intellectual understanding. Even as Adam *knew* his wife and she conceived a child. God imparts Himself into man's spirit to produce the born-again result and thus, a man, woman or child truly knows God as their Father and Jesus Christ as their Savior. Notice how clear and concise Jesus' statement is regarding eternal life: "This is...", not "This could be" or "This should be" or "This has great importance" or "is strongly recommended." No, He says in no uncertain terms, without exception, what eternal life is. Jesus says in Matthew 7:14, "...strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The word *life* is the Greek word *zoe*, which, in essence, is the God kind of life

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

as opposed to the natural life of our mind, will, intellect, and emotions as it relates to the physical world around us through our five senses: taste, touch, sight, hearing, and smelling. Until the Holy Spirit imparts zoe into one's being, they do not have the life of God in their inner man.

Man is a tri-part-being: spirit, soul and body (Greek: *pneuma*, *psuche*, and *soma*.) Before one comes to God, the spirit man is dead to God. This is why the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." This is why man must be born again. Man is alive to the natural world, but dead to his Creator as their Father. Man needs to have a spiritual birth to enter into the heavenly realm and appropriate God as his Father. The Lord said, "No man cometh to the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6.) You may have heard a preacher say at one time or another, "No man cometh to God but by Jesus Christ." Actually, we will all come to God. To clarify this, according to Romans 14:12: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God [in the final judgment.]" Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." But to come to God as your loving Heavenly Father, you must come by Jesus Christ as your Savior.

He is the only Savior in the history of the world. All others that claim to be great spiritual or religious leaders (i.e., Mohammed, Buddha, Joseph Smith, Sun Young Moon, etc.) were all just mere men in comparison while Jesus Christ was and is God Almighty in the flesh who lived a perfect, sinless life

SAYS THE MASTER

as a man which qualified Him to be the Sinless Savior. No one else could die for our sins and reconcile us to a holy God but Him. "And lo, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.'" (Matt. 3:17.) Job 9:33 records, "Neither is there a daysman [umpire] betwixt us [God and Job] that might lay his hand upon us both." Job knew he needed a mediator between a holy God and himself to reconcile a ruptured relationship. Job believed that God would send a redeemer in the fulness of time to effect this. Job confirmed this in Job 19:25, "For I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

Hopefully, this first chapter lays down a foundation for the thesis of this book and the reality that it opens up for us. The bottom line is that we are all born with an inclination towards self-will. We just want to do what our natural man dictates to us with the influence of the world and the enemy of our souls, satan himself. We all must surrender our wills to the will of God so that He can direct our lives in the way that He would have us to go. You must admit you are a sinner and ask Christ to save you from eternal damnation and also from yourself! This is how you become born again. Romans 10:9-10 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."

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

If you believe this with all your heart, pray this out loud: "God, save me from eternal separation from you and save me from my own way. I believe Jesus is Lord and I confess it with my mouth boldly. Thank you for doing it. Thank you for making me your child, in Jesus' name."