

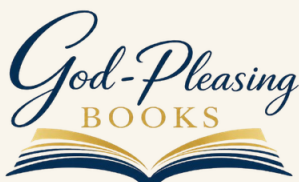
หนังสือเล่มเล็กเพื่อการประกาศและศึกษาพระกิตติคุณ

คุณต้อง บังเกิดใหม่

พวกท่านต้องเกิดใหม่
ยอห์น 3:7



เรียบเรียงโดยอ้างอิงจากหนังสือของ
Jonathan L. Master



About the Source Author and Reference



About Jonathan L. Master

Jonathan L. Master (PhD, University of Aberdeen) serves as President of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (GPTS) and is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). He has written and edited a number of works in Reformed theology, including *You Must Be Born Again*.

About This Booklet

This English edition is a close, literal translation of the Thai evangelistic booklet, preserving its paragraph structure and meaning as closely as possible. It is not a direct translation of Jonathan L. Master's English book. The Thai booklet was newly composed for evangelistic use while drawing on the major themes and theological flow of Master's *You Must Be Born Again*.

Primary Reference

Jonathan L. Master, *You Must Be Born Again*. P&R Publishing, 2024. ISBN 9798887790480.

Scripture Note

Direct Scripture quotations in this English edition are literal renderings of the Thai THSV11 wording used in the Thai source booklet. They may therefore differ from standard English Bible translations.

The controlling source text for this English edition is the Thai evangelistic booklet.



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Part 1 Can Human Beings Really Begin a New Life?



Every human being has at one time thought about wanting to change his or her own life. Some want to stop bad habits. Some want to forget mistakes from the past. Some want to begin a new life because they feel that the life they are living today is not yet the life it ought to be.

Some changes can take place. We may change jobs, change where we live, change the way we live, or even change the goals of life. But as time passes, many people discover that even though the things around them have changed, the suffering, sin, and emptiness inside the heart still remain the same.

This raises an even more important question: Can human beings really be changed from within? Can our hearts become new hearts? Or must we continue living in the same condition forever?

Jesus Christ answers this question clearly. He does not merely say that human beings can have new life. He says that every human being needs new life. Without this new life, no one can enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, if anyone is not born again, that person cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3, literal rendering of Thai THSV11)

And He said again, “Do not be surprised that I told you that you all must be born again.” (John 3:7, literal rendering of Thai THSV11)

These words show us that the human problem is deeper than we think. What we need is not merely a better life, but new life; not merely improved behavior, but change from within; not merely knowledge about God, but life received from God.

The Bible calls this change “the new birth.” In some places it uses expressions such as “new life” or “receiving life.” The words differ, but they all speak about the same truth: God gives spiritual life to people who were dead because of sin. He changes a hard heart into a heart that loves Him, and He begins a new life within a human being.

Many people understand the new birth as only a feeling that happens at a certain moment. Some think it is merely a decision to believe in Jesus, or an effort to live a better life. But the Bible teaches that the new birth is the work of God, not the work of human beings. The Holy Spirit creates new life in the heart of a sinner.

When God gives this new life, everything begins to change. The way a person sees God changes. Love for sin changes. The desires of the heart change. The way of life gradually changes as well. All these changes do not begin from the outside; they begin from the heart that God has made new.

Throughout this series of lessons, we will study why every human being needs to be born again, why human effort cannot save, how God promised a new heart, how the Holy Spirit works, and how the life of a person who has been born again changes.

All of this leads us to the most important question of life. It is not how good we are or how much we know about God, but whether we have received new life from God.

Part 2 The True Human Problem Is the Heart



Many people believe that human problems come from the environment. If we grow up in a good family, receive a good education, or live in a good society, we should become better people. Therefore, many try to change their lives by changing places, jobs, friends, or ways of living, because they think that when outward things change, they themselves will change as well.

The Bible, however, leads us to look deeper. The human problem does not begin with what is around us, but with what is inside us. God created human beings good and made them in His image. Human beings were therefore created to know God, love God, and give glory to Him. This is the true purpose of human life.

But when Adam disobeyed God, sin entered the world. The relationship between human beings and God was broken, and human nature became corrupt because of sin. From then on, every human being has been born with a heart turned away from God. We may still do many good things, but we do not love God as He deserves to be loved, and we do not truly live for Him.

When we look at the world, this truth becomes even clearer. In every country, language, and culture, we find selfishness, greed, pride, lying, envy, and hatred. The forms of sin may differ, but the root of the problem is the same: the human heart is far from God.

Jesus taught that sin does not begin only when we carry out a sinful action. It begins in the heart. Human thoughts, desires, and

intentions are the source of all words and actions. For this reason, God does not look only at what we do; He looks at what we are within.

Many times we try to solve the problem only at its outward end. We try to control our words, change our habits, or stop certain sins. These things may make outward life somewhat better, but they cannot change the heart. If the heart remains the same, sin will return again in another form.

This is why Jesus did not merely say, “Become a better person,” but said, “You must be born again.” What human beings need is not an improved life, but a new heart given by God. Only when the heart is changed by God does the whole life begin to change truly.

Part 3 Human Beings Cannot Change Themselves and Be Saved



When we learn that the human problem is in the heart, many may think, “Then I should try to change my own heart and make it better.” We may decide to do more good than before, stay farther away from sin, or live in a more orderly way. Such thinking may seem reasonable, but the Bible teaches that these things cannot solve the true human problem.

Outward actions can change while the inward heart remains the same. A person may stop one bad habit and then fall into another kind of sin. Someone may stop being greedy but become full of pride. Someone may stop becoming angry easily but begin seeking praise and reputation even more. The problem, therefore, is not only one particular sin, but a heart that remains far from God.

Jesus gave the example of the Pharisees. These people were regarded as the strictest religious people in society. They studied the Scriptures, prayed, fasted, and kept the commandments carefully. Outwardly, their lives appeared respectable and worthy of imitation. But Jesus revealed an important truth: no matter how good actions look, if the heart does not love God, those actions still cannot please Him.

God sees more deeply than human eyes. He does not measure life by outward appearance, but looks at the motives, thoughts, and desires within the heart. The heart is the source of every action. If

the tree is not good, its fruit cannot be good. If the heart is not changed, life cannot truly change.

This is why Jesus taught that anger is the root of murder, lust is the root of adultery, and evil words all come out of the heart. He showed that sin does not begin when our hands carry it out; it begins when our hearts turn away from God.

Human beings often hope that good intentions will change their lives. Many times we promise ourselves that we will not do wrong again, that we will begin again, or that we will become better people. But before long we find ourselves falling into the same sin again, or perhaps into a new form of sin. This truth shows us that the problem is not merely a lack of effort. Our hearts cannot change themselves.

Therefore, the Bible does not merely offer more rules or demand more effort from human beings. If the problem is in the heart, what human beings need is a new heart, and only God can give a new heart.

Salvation therefore does not begin with human ability but with the grace of God. God does not merely tell us to live better. He does what we could never do by ourselves: He creates new life within us. This is why Jesus said, "You must be born again." New life does not come from human effort but from the work of God.

In the next part, we will study the promise God gave from the Old Testament: that one day He would give His people a new heart and His Spirit, and that this promise is fulfilled completely in Jesus Christ.

Part 4 God Promised to Give a New Heart



When we see the true condition of human beings, we may feel hopeless. The Bible says that the human problem is not education, environment, or outward behavior, but our own hearts. If this is so, how can human beings have hope? No one can create a new heart for himself or herself.

The Bible does not leave us to end in despair. From the Old Testament, God had already declared a great promise. He did not merely say, “Change yourself.” He said that He Himself would do what human beings cannot do.

God said through the prophet Ezekiel, “I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26, literal rendering of Thai THSV11)

This promise shows that true change does not begin with human beings but with God. He is the One who changes a hard heart into a living heart.

A heart like stone cannot respond to God. Even when it hears the Word, it does not love Him. Even when it knows what is right, it has no power to live according to His will. But when God gives a new heart, a human being begins to love God from within. What was once only a duty becomes joy, and what was once forced becomes the desire of the heart.

God also promised to give His Spirit to dwell within His people. This is more than help from outside. God dwells with His people

and works within their lives so that they can live according to His Word.

This promise shows us that salvation is not human beings trying to climb up to God, but God coming down to human beings. He takes the initiative first. He calls first. He changes the heart of the sinner before the human being is able to respond to Him.

When Jesus said to Nicodemus, “You must be born again,” He was not teaching something that had never been heard before. He was declaring that the promise God had given from the Old Testament was now becoming reality. What the prophets had waited for was happening through the work of Christ.

Therefore, the new birth is not a human idea but the promise of God. God knows that human beings cannot save themselves, so He promised to give what human beings could never create by themselves: a new heart, new life, and the Holy Spirit dwelling within.

In the next part, we will study how this promise is fulfilled and why Jesus taught that the new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Part 5 Jesus Taught About the New Birth



When Jesus said, “You must be born again,” the person listening to Him was not someone who knew nothing about God. Nicodemus was a teacher skilled in the Scriptures, a strict religious man, and a person respected by many. Yet no matter how much religious knowledge he had, Jesus said that he still needed to be born again.

This teaches us that knowledge about God is not the same as knowing God. Being close to the Bible is not the same as having new life. Many people may grow up in the church, listen to sermons for a long time, or read the Bible regularly, yet still never have received new life from God.

Nicodemus did not understand the expression “born again.” He thought of physical birth and wondered how a person could enter the mother’s womb again. Jesus therefore explained that He was not speaking about physical birth but about spiritual birth: God creating new life within a human being.

Physical birth brings us into this world, but the new birth brings us into the kingdom of God. Physical life gives us breath, but spiritual life causes us to know God, love Him, and live with Him.

Jesus did not say that the new birth is suitable only for some people. He said that everyone needs to be born again, because every human being is affected by sin and everyone needs new life from God.

When Jesus speaks about the new birth, He is inviting human beings to look beyond their own ability and turn to the grace of

God. Salvation does not depend on what we do for God, but on what God does for us.

Therefore, the important question is not how much we know about God, but whether we have received new life from Him. The person who has received new life begins to see God, understand the Word, and live in a new relationship with Him.

In the next part, we will study how this new life comes about and why Jesus compared the work of the Holy Spirit to “the wind.”

Part 6 The Holy Spirit Gives New Life



After speaking about the new birth, Jesus explained that this change is the work of the Holy Spirit. Human beings cannot create spiritual life by themselves. Just as no one can cause himself or herself to be born into this world, new life is also a gift from God.

Jesus compared the work of the Holy Spirit to the wind. We cannot see the wind, but we know that it is blowing because we see its effects. Leaves move, trees sway, or the air changes. Even though we cannot see the wind itself, we know that it is real.

The work of the Holy Spirit is the same. We cannot see Him with our eyes or explain every step of His work, but we can see His effects in the lives of those who have been born again.

When the Holy Spirit works, a heart that once had no interest in God begins to seek Him. A person who once loved sin begins to fight against sin. A person who once did not understand the Word begins to see the beauty of the truth in Scripture. These changes do not come from human strength but are the result of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The new birth, therefore, is not a prize for the person who tries the hardest, and it is not a reward for doing good. It is grace that God gives to sinners. He is the One who begins new life and causes that life to continue growing.

When the Holy Spirit gives new life, He does not leave believers to walk alone. He dwells with them, teaches through the Word, warns them when they sin, and gives strength to live according to God's

will. The Christian life, therefore, is not an attempt to live by one's own strength, but a life lived by depending on the Holy Spirit every day.

For this reason, those who are born again can have hope. They still have weakness and still must fight sin, but the God who began the work of new life will not abandon His work. He will change believers to become more like Christ day by day.

In the next part, we will study how the believer's life changes after God gives new life and how the fruit of the new birth appears in everyday life.

Part 7 New Life Produces New Fruit



When God gives new life to a believer, change does not stop on the day of the new birth. New life gradually shows its results in the way a person lives. Just as a living tree naturally bears fruit, the person who has received new life from God begins to bear the fruit of new life.

This change does not mean that a believer becomes a person who never sins again. The Bible does not teach that. Believers still struggle with weakness and sin. What changes is the direction of life. A heart that once loved sin begins to hate sin. A heart that once turned its back on God begins to turn back to Him.

When the Holy Spirit works, the relationship with God changes. The Bible is no longer merely a religious book but becomes the Word that nourishes life. Prayer is no longer merely a duty but a conversation with the Father who loves us. Worship is no longer merely a ceremony but a response to the grace of God.

Relationships with other people also change. The person who has received God's love learns to love others. The person who has received forgiveness learns to forgive. Even though this is not yet done perfectly, God gradually changes the heart to become more like Christ every day.

Spiritual growth, therefore, is not competition with other people. It is God changing a believer little by little. Sometimes we may feel that change is slow, but God is faithful. He will not abandon the work He has begun.

The fruit of the new birth, therefore, is not immediate perfection but a life that is continually changing. Believers learn to love God more, love other people more, and hate sin more. This is evidence that God is working within their lives.

Therefore, when we look at our own lives, the important question is not, “Are we already perfect?” but, “Are our lives being changed to become more like Christ?” The new life God gives always produces new fruit.

Part 8 The Hope of Those Who Are Born Again



The Christian life does not mean that after the new birth every problem disappears. Believers still face suffering, illness, disappointment, and the struggle with sin like other people. The difference is that believers do not walk alone. God dwells with them and leads their lives every day.

When God begins new life in a believer, He does not abandon that person. He continues to teach, correct, strengthen, and change them. Even when a believer sometimes falls, God raises that person up again and calls him or her back to Himself. Salvation rests not on human strength but on the faithfulness of God.

The Bible therefore gives believers hope that God will complete the work He has begun. He will not allow new life to stop halfway, but will cause believers to grow until one day they fully bear the likeness of Christ.

This is the great hope of those who are born again. We do not hope merely that life in this world will become better. We hope for the day when God will make all things new. Believers will no longer have sin. There will be no death, no tears, and no suffering, because they will be with God forever.

This hope enables believers to endure present difficulties. Even though the path of life is not easy, we know that God controls all things and uses every event to change us to become more like His Son.

Therefore, the Christian life is not a life that only looks back at the past, but a life that looks forward with hope. Those who are born again are confident that the God who began new life will preserve them, change them, and lead them to the day of complete glory.

In the final part, we will summarize all the teaching and return once more to the most important question: “Have we received new life from God?”

Part 9 Have You Received New Life from God?



Throughout these lessons, we have learned that every human being needs to be born again, because our true problem is not outward behavior but our hearts. The human heart is turned away from God, and no one can change his or her own heart. Effort, goodness, or religious strictness cannot create new life. Only God can give us new life.

God promised from the Old Testament that He would give a new heart and put His Spirit within His people. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to receive the punishment for sin in the place of sinners and rose from the dead to give new life to everyone who comes to Him by faith.

When the Holy Spirit works in the heart of a sinner, that person begins to see the truth about himself or herself. The person realizes the need for a Savior, begins to love God and His Word, and begins to fight against sin. The change does not become complete immediately, but God continues to work until the believer's life gradually becomes more like Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the most important thing is not to ask whether we are members of a church. It is not to ask whether we have been baptized or how much we know about the Bible. The most important question is whether we have received new life from God. Jesus said clearly, "Truly I tell you, if anyone is not born again, that person cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3, literal rendering of Thai THSV11)

If we have never received this new life, the Bible invites us to turn to Jesus Christ. Do not depend on your own goodness. Do not hope that your effort will save you. Trust in Christ, who died and rose again for sinners. Those who come to Him by faith receive forgiveness, and new life is a gift of grace that God gives through the Holy Spirit.

If we have received new life, let us not forget that the Christian life did not end on the day we believed; it began on that day. God will teach us, change us, and lead us to grow throughout our lives until the day we are completely with Him.

Everything we have studied throughout this series brings us back to one truth: salvation is the grace of God from beginning to end. He is the One who calls. He is the One who gives new life. He is the One who keeps believers. And He will bring the work of salvation to complete fulfillment on the day Jesus Christ returns.

May all of us examine our hearts before God and trust in Jesus Christ alone, because new life is not found in human ability, in religion, or in our goodness. It is found in Christ alone, who is the Savior of the world.



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