

with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

2 Corinthians 4:10-12

10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 **For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.** 12 **So then death is working in us, but life in you.**

2 Corinthians 4:16

16 **Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

The outward man is the old man and the inward man is the spiritual man. The spiritual man is the man on the inside, born again by the Spirit of God. One is perishing as the other is being renewed. Notice Paul says, “**day by day**”.

1 Corinthians 15:31

31 **I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.**

The death of the outer man fuels the life of the inner man. This is why Christians need to love the commands of the Spirit of God and walk in the Spirit. The road of the cross is what saves them from sin and produces holiness onto eternal life.

Luke 9:23

23 **Then He said to them all, “If anyone**

desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, (die to self) and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

John 3:36 (NASB)

36 **He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

Romans 6:22

22 **But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

Paul says it this way, being a slave to God produces holiness and ultimately salvation. In the above verse of scripture he outlines these four steps 1. **free from sin** (the new birth by faith) 2. **slaves of God** (obedience to the will of the Father expressed by obedience to the Spirit, walking in the Spirit) 3. will produce **fruit to holiness** 4. and **the end everlasting life (eternal salvation)**.

Hebrews 12:14

14 **Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

You produce the fruit of holiness by walking in the Spirit. This is the work of the cross in your life. Without this death walk of the cross you will not be made holy and without holiness **you will not see God**.

BELIEVE - CONFESS - BE BAPTIZED

by Ron Brick

Acts 16:30-32

30 **And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** 31 **So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”** 32 **Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.** 33 **And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.**

Romans 10:8-10

8 **But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):** 9 **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Believing is doing! The first thing you do to be saved, after you believe in your heart, is confess with your mouth. The second thing you do is obey the command of Christ to be baptised. This obedience reveals what it is you truly believe. Your salvation is by faith. However, true faith is revealed by what you **think** (believe) what you **say** (confess) and what you **do** (be baptised).

It is a deception to think that believing is just intellectual, void of action. Without an accompanying confession and action, there is really no belief. Belief or faith without doing is dead. It is not real faith.

James 2:20

20 **But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works (doing) is**

dead?

The word, “believe”, in the New Testament, is a big word. It is akin to the word conceive. When you truly believe in your heart the message of the cross, the message of salvation, you are conceived spiritually. The seed of the Word of God, which is Christ, is conceived in your heart and just like natural conception, begins the process of bringing to birth a new creation. It is you as a new man, a spiritual man experiencing what the bible calls being **born again**.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

John 3:5

5 **Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** 6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** 7 **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**

Your natural birth is a picture of your spiritual birth. Your flesh is born naturally of flesh and your spirit is born spiritually of the Spirit of God.

John 3:6

That which is born of the Spirit (the Holy Spirit is capital “S”), is spirit (lower case, your spirit).

You are conceived naturally by your fathers seed, brought to term and then birthed through the water of your mothers womb. (pic. of water baptism)

So it is with your spiritual birth. You are conceived spiritually when you receive/believe the seed of your Heavenly Father, the Word of God: Jesus Christ.

John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 13:37

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

Luke 8:11

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

When you hear Christ, the Word of God and believe His Word, the seed of God is planted in your heart. This is accomplished by the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ brings the Word of God alive to your spirit. The convicting Word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin and convinces you of your need to be cleansed of sin. If you respond and repent of sin, with a deep heart felt remorse, you will receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour. A light goes on in your spirit. You receive a revealing or revelation of Christ, the light of the world, as you Saviour and you are conceived by the Holy Spirit. You are washed in the washing water of God's Word. Now the truth of the revelation of Christ causes you to confess Christ and gives you the desire to obey His command to be baptised. Water baptism becomes an expression, a picture or a sign of this washing away of your sin and your new spiritual birth into the kingdom of God. You are born of water and the Holy Spirit; repentance and the Spirit.

Colossians 1:13

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Ephesians 5:26-27

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Believing in Christ could also be likened to falling in love. When you hear the Word of God, the message of salvation, for the first time you meet the truth, who is Christ and you fall instantly in love with Him. It is love at first sight. Christ said, "I am the truth". Christ, the Word of God is the truth. So when you hear His Word, believe it and receive it, you receive Him. The light of revelation dawns in your heart and you become hooked on Him. You hear Him, you see Him and now you know Him. It is your heart falling in love with creator. You have somehow known Him all your life because He created you and yet He was hidden from you because of the darkness of sin in your soul. However, now with sin removed, you now have spiritual eyes to see Him. When you say, "I believe", it is like saying, "I do", in a marriage ceremony. You commit to becoming the bride of Christ.

The word, "believe", for the new believer, is a big word encompassing three words or actions, **Believe, Confess, Baptism**. These three words reveal, manifest or prove your faith.

1. Believe

Believe in your heart the message of the cross, the Word of God and by believing receive the seed of the Word of God, which is Christ into your heart.

Revelation 19:13

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word

of God.

1 Peter 1:23

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever,

2. Confess

Christ said in **Matthew 10:32-33**
32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

3. Be Baptised

Christ said in **Mark 16:16**
16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:41

41 Then those who gladly received (believed) his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

The act of water baptism is made by the believer to signify that he or she agrees or identifies by faith with Christ's death on the cross. By fulfilling this command of Christ, the believer agrees with the death sentence that is on his or her own sin nature. The new believer is willing to preform this sign to signify to the world that they are willing to live a crucified life. To daily lay down their self life in order to live for Christ. The believer is agreeing to put the old man, the flesh, the sin nature to death in Christ daily. The sign is that they go under the water to bury the old man, the sin man under the water. When they rise up out of the water they are showing their willingness to rise up and live a new life. A life in which they daily put to death their old man, by daily agreeing with this death sentence and proving the

agreement by daily obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul calls this, *walking in the Spirit*. Sadly most Christians are water baptised without realizing what it means and what they are signing up for. The water baptised Christian is signing up for a daily death experience. It is an exchanged life. The daily death of the old sin man working to transpose the Christian into a new life in the new spiritual man. It is an experiential walk into death which becomes an experiential daily walk in into the resurrected life of Christ. New life in Christ is daily produced through and ongoing real identification with both Christ's death and His resurrection. The ongoing death actually produces the ongoing miraculous new life.

It is this daily death walk that keeps the Christian on the way, the narrow way of the Fathers will, the narrow way of eternal life. The Christian is called by the Spirit to die daily to the old man so that the new man, created in Christ, through the new birth, can rise and live daily. The Christian becomes alive in Christ even as they are daily put to death by obedience to the Spirit's commands, the Father's will.

Romans 6:3-9

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live