

A Different Take On: Being Born Again

The effect of reciting the “sinner’s prayer” is said to confer on the new believer the status of being “born again”^{1,2} This “born again” is an evangelical term coined from verses in to the NT. However, there’s more to the biblical references than meets the eye.

Here are the standard references to the term in English translations:

John 3:3 (NKJV) – *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

John 3:7 (NKJV) – *Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’*

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV) – *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever;*

The critical thing here is, what was it that Jesus and Peter were meaning? You see, what we think in the 21st century is irrelevant to the original intent of the person saying or writing anything in the distant past.

Let’s have a look at that. Here’s the MIRROR translation of those verses to get a better idea of the intent of what’s written.

John 3:3 (MIRROR) – Jesus answered him emphatically; no one would even be able to recognize anything as coming from God’s domain unless they are born from above to begin with. The very fact that it is possible to perceive that I am in union with God, as a human being, reveals mankind’s genesis from above. (Notice from the previous verse how Jesus employs a play of words from the question of Nicodemus. Here Jesus uses the word *anouthen* meaning from above – see James 1:17, every good and perfect gift comes *anouthen* [from above])

John 3:7 (MIRROR) – Don’t be so surprised when I say to you [humanity - plural.] You couldn’t get here in the flesh unless you got here from above. (See John 1:13. These are the ones who discover their genesis in God beyond their natural conception. This is not about our blood lineage or whether we were a wanted or an unwanted child – this is about our God-begottenness; we are his dream come true. We are not the invention of our parents. [You are the greatest idea God has ever had.])

1 Peter 1:23 (MIRROR) – This co-resurrection-new-birth does not compare to the fading qualities of that which is produced by the perishable seed of the carnal works – and performance-based mindsets. The indestructible living seed of the word of God conceives resurrection life within you; this life is equal[§] to its source. (The word, [§]*meno* means, abiding in seamless union, or, to remain the same. You are giving stature to the rise of a new person; a new resurrection generation of a people who are coming out of obscurity into his marvelous light.)

“Born again” is being born from Heaven, and is not a throwaway evangelical term. It’s full of meaning and is stacked with the heart of Father as it’s actually our re-connection with him. We need to see that realistic view so that our new nature as a new species is not a Christian thing. Instead, it has spiritual and cosmic implications through the resurrected life we now live, all because of the Resurrection of Jesus.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – John 3:3, 7; 1 Peter 1:23

2 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Born_again