

## Are You Born Again?

October 16, 2016 Sermon Excerpt by Pastor, Jon Anderson

As you evaluate your life, are you wondering, “Am I born again?” What does it look like to be born again? No one can see a regenerated heart. All you can see is the effects of the work of the Holy Spirit. The fruit produced by the Spirit of God is recognizable in a regenerated person’s life. In the New Testament, the writers point to five prominent indications of fruit as the result of regeneration.

### 1. **Confession & Mortification of Sin**

- a. **Confession of Sin:** John says in [1 John 1:9](#), if you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins. He goes on to say, “I have written so you don’t sin, but when you do sin, you have an Advocate,” ([1 John 2:10](#)). True Christians confess their sin. If you say you have no sin, you’re a liar ([1 John 1:8](#)). As a regular pattern, are you going before the Lord in humble prayer to admit and confess our sin?
  - b. **Mortification of Sin:** The Apostle Paul says if you are mortifying the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit, you will live ([Romans 8:13](#)). “Are mortifying” is a present tense verb. It doesn’t say if you *have mortified* the deeds of the flesh in the past. If you are presently mortifying the deeds of the flesh, then you will live. Are you confronting sin in your life and actively taking steps to kill it as a regular pattern?
2. **Hunger for the Word:** Peter says if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord, then you will long for the pure milk of the Word ([1 Peter 2:2](#)). Do you have an appetite for the Word of God? Don’t ask, “Do I love and hunger for the Word as much as I ought?” That’s not the question to evaluate. The question is, “Do you have an appetite for the Word? Do you hunger for more of it?”
  3. **Growth in Christian Character:** Peter said in his second letter to make sure of your calling and election ([2 Peter 1:10](#)). How does one make sure of their calling and election? You supply to your faith moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love ([2 Peter 1:5-7](#)). Peter instructs what growth in Christian virtues looks like. And, he says if you have these and they are increasing, you will never be useless, nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ ([2 Peter 1:8](#)).
  4. **Love for Believers:** John says in [1 John 3:23-24](#) and [1 John 4:7-21](#), if you’ve been begotten of God, you will love the saints. Do you have an increasing desire to assemble with God’s people? Are you frequently more inclined to serve in the local church? Do you find yourself wanting to sacrificially meet the needs of others in Christ-like love ([Ephesians 5:2](#)) without an expectation of reciprocation? Do you desire to love even your enemies, as Christ did? Remember, He loved each of us, while we were still enemies ([Romans 5:10](#)). Are you being hospitable to each person in the body of believers, especially those who you do not know well ([1 Peter 4:9](#))?
  5. **Obedience with Joy:** The inward compulsion to obey God comes from being born of God ([1 John 5:1-3](#)). In this passage, we find another test of true belief. Verse 1 speaks of the person who has been born of God. Verses 2-3 describe the nature of the love for God and for believers in terms of joyful obedience.

[1 John 5:1](#) – Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

V1 Implication: You are never more loving to God than when you love His children.

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[1 John 5:2](#) – By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

V2 Implication: You are never more loving to His children, than when you obey His commands.

[1 John 5:3](#) – For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

V3a Implication: John emphasizes that His commands are not burdensome.

V3b Implication: When someone is spiritually dead, the true commands of God (not the legalistic interpretations which makes God's law attainable) are an impossible burden.

For the person who has been born of God, obedience may still be a battle because of the flesh. Obeying may still be challenging, because of the remaining love of self and fallen nature of our thoughts and emotions. However, the notion of submitting our lives to Christ's commands is not a burden, but a desire. The person who has no desire to please God, more than self in the areas of obedience, has not be born of God.

These are five of the tests of fruit of repentance. The list is not comprehensive, but only primary. Ask yourself in an honest assessment:

- ✓ Do you confess your sin?
- ✓ Do you forsake your sin?
- ✓ Are you in the process of killing sin?
- ✓ Do you hunger for the Word?
- ✓ Is your Christian character becoming more Christ-like?
- ✓ Do you love the brethren?
- ✓ Are you experiencing joy in your obedience to God's commands?

The fruit of repentance will not be perfectly manifested in your life this side of glory, but fruit is evident and it is growing more mature. If you have fruit, it is the testimony of a spiritual work in your life wrought by the God. You cannot crank up these life patterns in your own ability. They are produced by the Spirit of God in regeneration.