

faith. Who is the one getting victory over the world except the one believing that Jesus is the son of God?" Here is another mark of identification: the true child of God is the one who is getting victory over the evil world-system through his vital faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

10. I John 5:18 -- "We know that everyone having been begotten of God (πᾶς ὁ γεγεννημένος ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ) is not practicing sin, but the one who was begotten of God (ὁ γεννηθεὶς ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ) is keeping him, and the evil one is not taking hold of him." This is a difficult verse because of the second clause. However, if in that clause the phrase "the one who was begotten of God" refers to Christ (who was begotten by God the Spirit in the womb of Mary), then the clause is saying that Christ is keeping the child of God, with the result that the evil one (the devil) is not able to clutch him in such a way as to hold him.

Taking these scriptures into account, the following summary statement of the new birth would appear to be warranted.

The new birth is that act of the Holy Spirit by which a human being is spiritually reborn, thereby becoming a spiritual child of God. This implies such a tragic flaw in man's spiritual nature that a radical rebirth of his spirit is necessary before he can live a life pleasing to God.

Aspect Two: Regeneration as a New Life

1. John 5:24 -- "Truly, truly, I say to you that the one who is hearing my word and is believing the one who sent me is having eternal life (ἔχει ζωὴν αἰώνιον), and is not coming into judgment but has crossed over from death to life (εἰς τὴν ζωὴν)." The picture is that of one who crosses a bridge spanning a chasm separating the country of death from the country of life. Notice that the believer has crossed over: he has eternal life now as a present possession.

2. I John 3:14-15 -- "We are knowing that we have crossed over from death to life (εἰς τὴν ζωὴν), because we are loving the brothers. The one not loving is remaining in death. Everyone hating his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer is having eternal life remaining in him (ἔχει ζωὴν αἰώνιον ἐν αὐτῷ μένουσαν)." Here we have a characteristic mark by which the one who has eternal life may be identified: he is presently loving his brothers and sisters in Christ.

3. Ephesians 2:1-6 -- "And you, being dead in transgressions and in your sins, in which at one time you walking according to the forces of evil of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now working in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all lived at one time in the desires of our flesh, doing what the flesh and the mind desired, and were by nature children of wrath even as also the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, and we, being dead in transgressions, he made alive (συνεζωοποίησεν) with Christ -- by grace you have been saved -- and he raised (us) and placed (us) in the supernatural sphere