

VITAL SIGNS OF NEW BIRTH

When a baby is born, several vital signs are checked: breathing rate, heart rate, blood pressure and temperature. Proper care is then made for its various needs as it begins to develop. Jesus often used examples from the physical and material world to illustrate things of the spiritual world of his kingdom.

When a person is born into God's kingdom there are several needs that need to be met for the new Christian to grow and mature successfully. Also, there are many vital signs to that demonstrate that a person is truly born from above by God's Holy Spirit.

Needs of a New Born:

1. Love, assurance, gentle care (1 John 3:1, Romans 8:1, Isaiah 40:11)
2. Protection from germs, poisons, cold (false teaching - Acts 20:28-31)
3. Nutritious, easily digested food (milk of the Word - 1 Peter 2:2)
4. Close supervision / attention (1 Thessalonians 4:1, Colossians 4:12)
5. Frequent changing / cleansing (confession, forgiveness 1 John 1:9)
6. Training, correction (1 Corinthians 3:1-3, New Testament letters)
7. Touch, encouragement, social contact (Acts 2:44-46, Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:25)

The Breath of God A person comes to life physically when the breath of God comes into them, which first happened to Adam - Genesis 2:7. All of mankind since then has received the breath of life and should appreciate it.

*Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth....- Ecclesiastes 12:1a
Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was. And the spirit will return to God who gave it. - Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 NKJV*

*The Spirit of God has made me; the **breath** of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4*

Being born again is a spiritual birth when the Holy Spirit enters a person and begins to change them from the inside out. It starts in the invisible realm of the heart and spirit.

*'....You must be born again. The **wind blows** where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. - John 3:7-8 NKJV*

Jesus disciples were locked in a room, as they were afraid of the Jews after Jesus was crucified. He then appeared to them in the room and assured them with these words that brought them joy.

*'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he **breathed on them** and said, **Receive the Holy Spirit.** - John 20:21-22 NIV*

The word 'breathed on' also means 'blew on'. Jesus gave the disciples a foretaste right

then of what would happen to them in a few weeks on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them like a mighty wind. They would remember all the words he had given them about how the Holy Spirit would come to be their comforter and counselor (John 14-16).

A New Heart

I will give them a **new heart** to know me, that I am the Lord...- Jeremiah 24:7 NKJV

I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** within you; I will take the **heart of stone** out of your flesh and give you a **new heart of flesh**. I will put **my Spirit** within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and you will keep my judgments and do them. - Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision** is that **of the heart**, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God. - Romans 2:29 NKJV

He who unites himself with the Lord, is **one with him in spirit**. - 1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV

But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**: who were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but born of God. - John 1:12-13

TEMPERATURE

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home where we went to church Sunday morning, evening and Wed. night prayer meeting. Even as a young boy, I could tell there was a difference among Christians. I had one relative who regularly took a nap while the sermon was being preached. Another relative would change the subject if I started talking about spiritual things. Two ladies in our church held a life long grudge with each other. Neither one would sing when the other was playing the church organ. Our Sunday morning service had liturgy and formality, while the evening service was filled with lots of joyous hymn singing, life and Christians who really had a heart for God. It was followed by a sermon. (I remember one time when the lights went out, the preacher went right on preaching in the dark!).

When I was in my late 20's I was asked to preach on a Sunday night service. It was a sermon on being lukewarm from Revelation 3:14-23. At the end of the service, I remember Dorris coming forward from the back row, sobbing with tears (She was a very nice neighbor lady). One other man said, 'we need to hear more preaching like that around here.' (Pastor Jack was standing right there when this was said). I also noticed that he had his head down when I was preaching, as if he was quite uncomfortable.) In another message, I will share the most amazing story of how God shook up that Pastor one Easter morning through an unusual instruction that God gave me six months before).

Jesus is the good shepherd and knows the condition of his sheep and those who claim to be his sheep. They are either: **HOT** **LUKEWARM** **COLD**

If being a Christian were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We will examine three types of evidence of a new birth: UPWARD...INWARD...OUTWARD. Some of the evidence is objective while the other is subjective.

EVIDENCE OF NEW BIRTH

UPWARD: The Testimony of God' Word

- If you received Jesus, He came in - John 1:12
- If you believed in the Son, you have eternal life - John 3:36; 1 John 5:10-11
- You have crossed over from death to life - John 5:24

INWARD: Inner witness of the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit - Romans 8:14-16, Proverbs 20:27
- Heart of love and compassion - Romans 5:5
- Our spirit delights in God's commands - Romans 7:22, Psalm 1:1-2
- Accepts the things of God's Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:14
- Testimony in your heart - 1 John 3:20-21; 5:10; Romans 10:9-10, Proverbs 3:5
- Spiritual hunger and thirst satisfied in Jesus - John 6:35, Colossians 2:9-10
- Right standing in God's presence produces peace, joy, dignity - Romans 14:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:3, John 14:7, Exodus 28:2, Isaiah 32:17, 61:10

OUTWARD: Visible actions that reveal inward grace and desire

- Unashamed to confess Jesus is Lord - Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
- Obedience in water baptism - Acts 2:38,41
- Confess Jesus is Son of God come in the flesh - 1 John 2:23; 4:2,15; 5:1,18
- Obedience to God's commands - John 10:27, 1 John 2:3-4; 5:2
- Loves their fellow Christians - 1 John 2:10; 3:14,16-18; 4:7,12,16
- No longer loves the world - Acts 3:26, 2 Corinthians 6:14- 7:1
- Gets rid of idols and occult items - Acts 19:17-20
- Practices right living, no habitual sins - 1 John 2:29; 3:6,9
- Walks in humility - 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:20-25
- Loves the light and righteousness - John 3:18-21
- Devoted to learning, fellowship and prayer - Acts 2:42-46
- Hungry for milk - 1 Peter 2:2
- Bold overcomer - Acts 4:13; 1 John 5:1-4, Proverbs 28:1