



The Bible Speaks

HOW YOU CAN BECOME A NEW PERSON

Some time ago the newspapers told the story of a young girl who had raised a panther as a pet. It was only a few days old when it was given to her. The girl was ever so kind to this pet and the two of them spent many hours together in play.

As the panther grew larger and older, the girl was warned of the danger of having this wild animal for a pet. She had almost grown up with the panther and was certain that the animal would never harm her. She claimed that all the wild traits of this particular cat had been eliminated by its constant association with humans.

Then one day the girl cut her finger as she was playing with the animal. The panther licked the blood from the wound. In a matter of a few seconds this kind, gentle playmate became a ravenous beast. Knocking its mate to the ground it viciously chewed and clawed her. The girl was certain the nature of the panther had been changed by its association with humans, but she discovered that it still had the nature and heart of a wild animal.

This story illustrates the nature of man. Man is born with a basically sinful nature. It is much easier for him to do that which is wrong and sinful than that which is good and right. Education and training may develop some outward signs of good behaviour, but the evil nature inherited from Adam will remain.

The kind father and thoughtful husband can become a raging maniac when he has had a few drinks. Psychologists tell us that these outbreaks are due to hidden and repressed drives that are held in check by self control but show themselves when the self control is temporarily anaesthetized. Christ said that the religious leaders of His day were like "whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness." Matthew 23:27

In order to be right with God we need forgiveness for our past sins. More than this, we need the evil nature, which produces these sins, changed.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

1. What does the Bible say it is impossible for the sinner to do?
Jeremiah 13:23

The Bible Answer: _____

2. How does Isaiah describe the good deeds we are capable of doing?
Isaiah 64:6

The Bible Answer: _____

3. When Paul wanted to do that which was right, what did he do instead?
Romans 7:15-19

The Bible Answer: _____

4. Why was Paul incapable of doing what God commanded?
Romans 7:14

The Bible Answer: _____

5. What does the Bible say is the reason that mankind does not willingly obey God?
Romans 8:6,7

The Bible Answer: "The carnal mind _____ :
for it is not _____ ."

6. How can a lost sinner become a child of God? **Acts 3:19**

The Bible Answer: _____
Note: This text tells us to repent and be converted. The word converted means to be changed. We are to have the carnal nature changed into a spiritual nature. Our part is to repent or be sorry for our sins. God's part is to accomplish the change in us which we call conversion.

7. How can our natures be changed from carnal to spiritual so that we might be what God wants us to be? **John 3:3**

The Bible Answer: _____

8. How does God accomplish this spiritual rebirth? **John 3:5,6 (NT 84),
John 1:12, 13**

The Bible Answer: _____

9. What does God promise to do if we yield ourselves to Him?
Ezekiel 36:26

The Bible Answer: _____

10. Under the new covenant what has God promised to do to help us in living a
Christian life? **Hebrews 8:10**

The Bible Answer: _____

11. Through whom does deliverance from the evil nature come?
Romans 7:24,25

The Bible Answer: _____

12. How deep must be our desire to received this change? **Matthew 5:6**

The Bible Answer: _____

13. When will we be able to find the help we need in securing salvation?
Jeremiah 29:12, 13

The Bible Answer: _____

14. How completely are we changed by this rebirth through Christ?
2 Corinthians 5:17

The Bible Answer: _____

15. How does the Bible describe the change that takes places by the new birth?
Colossians 3:1-10

The Bible Answer: "Ye have _____ with his deeds
and have _____" (Verse 9,10).

16. When an individual has been truly converted, what new traits of character will be seen in his life? **Galatians 5:22-25**

The Bible Answer: _____

17. What assurance is given to those who are born of God? **1 John 5:4**

The Bible Answer: _____

How many times each of us has failed in following the Saviour as he should. Many of us have tried so very hard to do right - only to fail more miserably than before. Our intentions were good, but we were trying to do good without God's help. We were still carnal and sinful in nature. We were controlled by passions and habits acquired before we knew God's plan of redemption. Without Jesus our hearts cannot be changed. We can never overcome the Devil in our own strength.

It is only as we put our loves in the hands of Christ that we can gain the victory over past sins. It is only through Him that we can live the victorious Christian life.

So many have said, "When I overcome this habit, or gain the victory over that sin, then I will accept the Lord and become a Christian." This is like the sick person saying, "When I get well I will go to the doctor and let him help me." The time to come to Christ for help is when you recognize your need. Give Him your heart today and know the joy and peace that comes to you as you become a new creature in Christ. You can do this by dropping to your knees just now and letting Him take control of your life. Perhaps you do not know how to come to Christ. Just repeat these simple words as an expression of your heart's sincere desire: "Dear Lord, I am weak. I have sinned. Please forgive and help me. Come into my heart and change me just now. Amen."

(If you wish to respond to this question, place a cross in the box.)

I want the new birth that God has promised

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____