

WE NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN IN CHRIST

By Nance Gilmore

We have been born the first time in the flesh. Physically we know that we are here. We know that we have physical consciousness of the things around us, and of ourselves being body persons. We have desires and emotions that we express in likes and dislikes. We have a consciousness about ourselves and others, and the ability to learn by opposites. We know hot because we know cold. We know sweet because we know bitter. We know soft because we know hard and so on.

We may even be believers in God, and relate to Him as someone we include in our life as a vital part of us. We may even relate that we live and move and have our being in Him. Which is true! However that does not mean that we are "Born Again in Christ".

To be born again in Christ is as radical for us as it was for us to be born the first time in the flesh. When we were born the first time in the flesh, we had to come to know ourselves, and have an identity for ourselves as to who we are as a physical person. Even if that identity was a false identity of ourselves we had to have a point of contact. We usually started with our identity as a name. I am "so and so". I am in the family of "mom, and dad". I have one brother and two sisters. I live in the town of "so and so" and I am going to marry "you know who". You get the picture. We have to have an identity.

Well to be "Born Again in Christ" is to have a *new* identity! You can be a believer and *not* be born again.

You **cannot** have a new identity without being born again. Oh, you can go to Church. You can be very religious. You can have an identity with a number of social groups. You can be involved in activities, which benefit others. You can be looked up to as someone of great importance. You can be a preacher, or you can be a seminary student, but unless *you are born again in Christ*

Jesus, and He birthed in you, you will not have a new identity with who you are, or even know to take one.

The point is *we* can be a new creation! We can have old things pass away, and... "Behold *all* things become new"! Just like we were birthed the first time in the flesh and came to know ourselves, (as who we think we are), we can be born again in The Spirit of God and come *know Christ in us!* With Him *in* us we have a new identity. We have found our *unity* with the One we have been looking for. The one who can fulfill us! Our true mate! When we are only born in the flesh we are half-baked people. We are not completed. We are empty, and yet full of hurt, wrath, bitterness, disappointment, self-centeredness, self-criticism and misery, just to name a few. Oh, we may live in denial from time to time, and pretend everything is ok, but eventually we are sucked back into the reality of the hell that is within us. When we are born again in Christ we are freed from all that old nature which has permeated us like a virus to destroy us, which has separated us from the love of God, and the fulfillment we desire to have within us.

We long to know a *total* reality. When we are born again of God Spirit and Christ indwells us, we enter into New Life, and New Life enters into us. We can *know* the *Life of Christ* in us! We can *know* the same Holy Spirit that lived in Jesus Christ when He was here on earth 2000 years ago. We can *know* the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We can *know* the Resurrected Life of Christ, right now, by Him coming to live in us. The Lord says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone *hear* my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

All we have to do is ask Him to come in, and he will come!

He already knows our hearts, but a living relationship and inner action only begins when we *hear* his knock, and invite Him in. We cannot know anything apart from ourselves, and that includes Christ. We have to know Him in us. Head knowledge isn't the answer.

Christ in us, living as us is the *only* way we will ever know Him.

These simple words here may express your desires and feeling toward the Lord, and perhaps you would like to address them to Him now and seal His invitation to you to come in and sup with you.

Lord Jesus, I do hear you speaking to me through these words that I have just read. And I would like for you to come into me, and be in me so I might *know* you, and sup with you, and you with me as you have promised. I long to know You as my all. Belong to you, and *you* to me. Make me your dwelling place, and let me *know you* as my dwelling place also. Shed your love abroad in me that I may taste of you and eat, and feast with you and you with me. Seal me now Lord with your Holy Spirit, that from this moment on I might know I am born again of Your Spirit, and am a new creation

Now if you have expressed your faith toward God today, and know that He is a Person who cannot lie to you; and you have invited Him to come into you and make His home in you, as He promised He would, be sure to thank Him now as your seal of acceptance of Him doing what He said He would do

Now you may visit your old hellish holes on occasions, but you will *not* live there any longer, because you have found a whole new way of life! Jesus said, "I Am The Way, I Am The Truth, and I Am The Life".....

When we are born again with Christ we have a complete new identity of ourselves. We are joined to Him now. As the scriptures say...he that is joined to the Lord is *one spirit* with Him, so let us take Him as our new identity now, and forever more.