PETRU LOGA

ARE YOU TRULY

BORN AGAIN?

BIBLE QUESTIONNAIRE

ALBA IULIA 2025

PETRU LOGA

ARE YOU TRULY

BORN AGAIN?

BIBLE QUESTIONNAIRE

ALBA IULIA 2025

Have you truly experienced the new birth? Is your life transformed by God or only influenced by people? Are you living a life of discipleship or only practising a form of religion?

Discover the answer! Complete the Bible questionnaire

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

Introduction

When we read the Holy Scriptures carefully, we discover that God's plan included not only the creation of heavenly servants, but also of a unique being – man – destined to live a special relationship with Him, as His son and as a brother of the Lord Jesus.

This divine intention is clearly expressed in Genesis 1:26-27, where God says: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The same idea appears in Romans 8:29, where we are shown that He "also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Thus, even before the world was created, God ordained that people should be partakers of His divine nature, called to become like His Son.

Through Adam's fall, man died spiritually, that is, he was separated from God. This state of separation brought with it the need for restoration and reconciliation with God, which is possible only through the saving work of Christ. In His plan, made before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4), God provided for the spiritual rebirth of sinful man.

This plan is not limited to a mere forgiveness of sins, but aims at the complete restoration of the human being and at bringing us to the measure of the stature of His Son, as it is written in Ephesians 4:11-13: "And he gave some, ... prophets; ... pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, ... till we all come ... unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

The new birth is, therefore, an essential threshold in every person's life, marking the beginning of a new existence in which we gain citizenship in the Kingdom of God and begin a journey of drawing near to His Son and becoming like Him.

This transformation is not merely a moral change, but a profound work of the Holy Spirit, who regenerates the inner being of the believer after the image of Christ, thus restoring the image of God in man.

The analogy between natural birth and spiritual birth is profound: just as biological life begins through a human seed that carries the genetic code of the parents, so spiritual life begins through "the seed of God", which is His Word (Luke 8:11). This seed carries within it the characteristics of God and, when it is received into a good and pure heart, it gives birth to a new being — born of God (Luke 8:15).

This new life shows itself visibly through genuine discipleship — a continuous process of transformation through the Word of God. Discipleship is not a later or optional stage, but the natural expression of a real new birth.

The one born of God enters a life of spiritual formation, in which he is taught, rebuked, encouraged and equipped to become more and more like Christ.

This initial work is the cornerstone of the new life in Christ. That is why Satan targets it with strategic intensity. His main aim is to replace the true birth from God with a counterfeit version that leads to a salvation lacking the deep commitment to follow in the steps of Christ.

He knows that once a person is born of God and enters the path of becoming like Christ, it is hard to bring him back into the darkness of former times. That is why he seeks to corrupt the seed — the Word that brings life — and to replace it with a teaching that seems credible but lacks the clear call to self-denial and to following Christ as His disciple. Through this substitution, he seeks to ensure that from the altered seed are born not brothers of the Lord Jesus, but only followers of a lifeless religion.

He does not impose himself through direct opposition to Christ, but through the selective emphasis of certain biblical truths — such as salvation by faith — without the call to a life of obedience to His teachings. Through this diluted gospel, Satan hides from man **the real need for discipleship — the only way through which human character can be shaped after the character of the Lord Jesus.**

Paul warns in 2 Corinthians 11:4: "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, ... or if ye receive another spirit, ... or another gospel, ... ye might well bear with him."

This diluted gospel is often passed on by people who seem sincere but are deceived — theologians, preachers or religious leaders who, formed in a setting devoid of the Holy Spirit, perpetuate a Christianity that caters to the desires of man. They pass on a "gospel" adapted so that a person can keep the old life: a superficial new birth, in which the seed of God – the Word – is ignored, a faith that conforms to religious culture but does not lead a person on the path of discipleship in the righteousness of the Kingdom of God.

Such experiences may seem sincere, may stir the emotions and may even change behaviour up to a point — but they do not regenerate the heart.

This form of faith only sustains an appearance of spirituality, offering a diluted standard – a comfortable version of the Gospel – which keeps a person from understanding the real requirements of the Kingdom. Thus the original seed is replaced, and the life that results is not from God, but from another source.

The true seed – the Word – not only gives life, but also sustains and transforms. It gives birth to a new being, who no longer lives under the dominion of sin, but reflects more and more the nature of God. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him." (1 John 3:9)

That is why not receiving the Word, or receiving a counterfeit version of it, is a spiritual tragedy. John says of the Lord Jesus, who was the Word: "He came unto

his own, and his own received him not." (John 1:11) And Paul adds: "but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life..." (Acts 13:46)

At the centre of the new birth stands the pure Word of God. Any distortion, dilution or substitution of it is a subtle but devastating strategy, meant to prevent the beginning of the life that comes from God.

On closer inspection, it is easy to see that we live in an increasingly diverse religious world, in which many denominations promote teachings that are mixed or subtly deviated from the pure truth of Scripture. In this context, the danger is not the absence of religion, but the presence of a distorted religion, which offers an appearance of spirituality but does not produce the new birth.

More and more people come to believe that they are born again when, in reality, they have only been adapted to a religious system, influenced by an emotional atmosphere or convinced by human arguments. This form of religion does not regenerate the heart and does not bring a transformed life; it only sustains a form of godliness without power.

In fact, many of us, at the moment of our supposed conversion, received the "glasses" of the denomination we belong to, and came to filter everything through human practices and interpretations. Instead of the spiritual birth being the result of the will of God, it was shaped by the will of men — by religious influences, social pressures or emotional settings. Thus many end up living for years with a faith that seems sincere but lacks authenticity, without any real victory over sin.

We ought to ask ourselves honestly: how is it possible that, after years of walking on the path of faith, we still persist in the old things which, according to Scripture, categorically separate us from God? If we live in them constantly, not accidentally, with no desire to leave them, then we must ask ourselves whether our new birth was genuine or only a religious illusion.

Scripture is clear: "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21). To live for years without victory over sin is to confuse a religious life with a real transformation of the heart.

This reality, painful yet frequently encountered, calls us to a sincere and deep self-examination. Not in order to condemn ourselves, but in order to return to the source of truth — Scripture — and to examine the foundation of our faith. It is vital to ask ourselves: were we truly born of God, or only of the will of men?

The true new birth produces a profound transformation: a hunger for the righteousness of God, a sincere desire to follow Christ with all one's heart, and a life lived in discipleship, in obedience and self-denial. Anything else is only a form without substance — a religion that does not save, but deceives.

To support this process of spiritual self-examination, we have prepared a questionnaire which is not merely a simple list of questions, but a sincere invitation to personal examination. It is a tool meant to help us distinguish between the genuine

and the counterfeit, between the work of the Spirit and human influence.

This material invites you to reflect deeply on the genuineness of your new birth, on your real belonging to the Body of Christ, on your daily life in righteousness and peace, as well as on your love for Christ and your sincere discipleship to Him.

The questions in this questionnaire are based on Scripture and address essential aspects of this deep, visible and continuous transformation, as it is described in the Word of God.

The questionnaire set out here seeks to explore, in the context of the new birth from God, some essential themes of the genuine Christian life, highlighting traits that cannot be produced by human effort:

- **The functioning of the Body of Christ** — a life of mutual service and unity among believers, in which each member fulfils its role in harmony with the others, as described in Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12.
- **The peace of those who are born again** — which is not merely an inner state of calm, but the result of a radically different attitude toward resistance and conflict, according to the teachings of the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. This peace springs from a submissive heart, which chooses not to answer evil with evil, but to overcome evil with good.

It is the peace of those who choose to turn the other cheek, to go the second mile, to bless those who curse them and to pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:38–48). Such a life is not natural, but a sign of a birth from God, of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit. This peace does not depend on the absence of conflicts, but on the presence of obedience to Christ in the midst of them.

- **Practical righteousness** — a life lived in the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God, shown through real obedience to the commandments of Christ. This righteousness is not limited to theory or declarations, but is expressed through concrete deeds that reflect His character. It must be a visible reality in everyday life, a clear testimony to those around us.
- **Genuine discipleship** — an unbroken journey of being shaped by the Word of God, in which the believer is formed, rebuked, encouraged and equipped to live like Christ. This is not an optional stage, but a daily call to self-denial and to following the Lord Jesus: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

The purpose of this questionnaire is not judgement, but clarification: that you may understand whether your life truly reflects the work of the Holy Spirit and whether you have experienced the new birth — not as a mere religious affiliation, but as a radical change of heart.

Our aim is to give you the opportunity to make a scriptural, objective and non-denominational assessment of the genuineness of your birth from God.

I encourage you to consider each question carefully and to choose the answer

"Yes" or "No", according to what reflects the reality of your life. It is recommended that you do not read the explanations before completing the whole questionnaire, so that you may be as accurate as possible in testing the genuineness of your new birth.

After you finish the questionnaire, you will be able to read the biblical explanations for each question. These will help you to understand your answers more deeply and to discern whether your spiritual birth truly comes from God.

Questionnaire Questions

Belonging to the Body of Christ

1. Do you attend a congregation that offers only worship programmes and a few social activities?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

2. Are you in a congregation that tolerates worldly people, brothers who live in sin and in disobedience?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

3. Are you just an ordinary member of the congregation you belong to?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

4. Do you think that a born-again Christian can go away for work and be absent from the Body of Christ for months or even years at a time?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

5. At your new birth, did you have a spiritual father, as Timothy had Paul?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

6. Do you consider that you have experienced the new birth even though God has not done His part in His relationship with you — He has not provided you with a spiritual father to care for you, and you have had to feed only on sermons, like an orphan child raised in an institution?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

7. Do you believe that a person can be truly born again if he lives on his own, without being a member of the Church of Christ? (Colossians 2:19)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The Peace of the Kingdom of God

8. Do you consider it right for a Christian to resist if someone wants to do him harm?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

9. Do you consider it right for a born-again Christian to do military service, to work in institutions such as the police, the gendarmerie or as a

security guard (bodyguard), or to take an oath that he will defend his country at the cost of his life? Would you do this if you were asked to?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The Righteousness of the Kingdom of God

10. Are you hungry and thirsty for the righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom, and do you seek, above all, His righteousness? (Matthew 6:33)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

11. Do you consider it justified for a born-again Christian not to declare all his income and not to pay his taxes?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

12. Do you believe that a person can be born again even if his life is marked by serving two masters — that is, a life divided between God and the desire for gain?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

13. Do you consider it right, when you are in hospital, to give gifts or money to doctors and nurses?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

14. Is it a way of life for you to drive constantly more than 10 km/h over the legal limit, to carry more people than the vehicle registration certificate allows, or not to wear a seat belt?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

15. Can a Christian born of God, called to reject the values of the world, knowingly expose himself to settings such as public beaches or swimming pools, where the body is exposed and sin is promoted, knowing that these influence the heart and the mind and feed the lusts of the flesh?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

16. Can someone be born again if he lives constantly in anger, without this attitude being changed after the image of Christ?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

17. Can a person be truly born again if he does not guard himself and feeds on the sources of the world, such as the inappropriate content and images

frequently found on the internet and on television screens, which arouse sinful desires, contrary to the biblical exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life"?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

Things That Precede the New Birth

18. Was your desire to be saved motivated mainly by the desire to have a share in heavenly paradise and to escape eternal punishment?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

19. When you heard the Word of the Gospel, which showed you the Lord Jesus as He truly is, were you drawn by the beauty of His character?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

20. If the beauty of the character of the Lord Jesus has drawn you, has He become the most important being in your life, so that you love Him with all your mind, with all your heart, above everything else?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

21. Can you say that you have experienced the first love — the love in which the Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you, as the Betrothed of your soul?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

The Life of Discipleship

22. When you made the covenant with God, did you truly deny yourself and receive all His teaching with joy?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

23. Can you say that, as a result of your decision, all things have become new and the old things have passed away, as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

24. Following your decision to follow Christ, did you begin the life of discipleship with the central aim of becoming like your Teacher?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

25. When you made this covenant, did you offer yourself willingly, and do

you live as a bondservant of Christ, as He lived toward His Father? (Philippians 2:7)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

26. Is the verse in 1 John 2:6 fulfilled in your life? (He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

27. Is your every choice, action and plan subject to the aim of being like Christ?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

Questionnaire Answers

Belonging to the Body of Christ

Question 1. Do you attend a congregation that offers only worship programmes and a few social activities?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To attend a congregation that offers only formal worship and social activities, without life in Christ, means:

- To be content with a form of godliness but without its power (2 Timothy 3:5), that is, a surface religion, lacking inner transformation.
- To avoid spiritual responsibility, real fellowship and confrontation with sin — essential elements of a born-again life.
- To turn the congregation into a place of emotional comfort, not a place of edification, growth to maturity and spiritual service. This choice contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture about the Body of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12:25 Scripture says: "that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another". Therefore every member is called to be active, closely joined, and to contribute to the building up of the others. To live in isolation or superficially means not to have a living bond with the members of the Body, which is incompatible with the work of the Holy Spirit.

A congregation without genuine fellowship, in which the members do not care for one another, does not reflect the living Body of Christ, but only a powerless imitation — a lifeless religious community, in which Christ is not truly acknowledged and followed. Such a body is, in reality, a dead body, in which Christ is not present as the Head.

A congregation that limits itself to outward forms cannot nourish a born-again soul spiritually; it only kills it spiritually. The new birth produces a real hunger for the Word, for living fellowship and for a life lived in the light, in the

Body of Christ.

A born-again Christian cannot live separated from the living Body of Christ. He is placed by God in the Body in order to have living fellowship, mutual accountability and growth in holiness. The lack of desire to be a member closely joined to the other members is a sign that the Holy Spirit is not truly at work in that heart.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again soul is not content with a congregation that offers only worship programmes and social activities, but longs for a living community, where Christ is present and active, and His Body functions in unity and love.

This deep desire is a sign of a sensitive conscience and of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, because:

- In Ephesians 4:16 we are told that the Body of Christ is "fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth", and that growth comes "according to the effectual working in the measure of every part".
- In 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, Scripture says that "the members should have the same care one for another" and that "ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular".

If you are in a living body, where there are spiritual fathers, infants, children and young people in Christ — as John describes in 1 John 2 — and where the members care for one another, rebuke one another in love, build one another up and grow to maturity together, this is a sign that the new birth may be genuine.

A born-again Christian is found where there is:

- Genuine brotherly fellowship, not just physical presence.
- Discipleship, rebuke in love, mutual submission and mutual service.
- Sanctification and spiritual growth to maturity, not just emotional comfort or social activities.

Question 2. Are you in a congregation that tolerates worldly people, brothers who live in sin and in disobedience?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again Christian cannot have fellowship in a congregation that tolerates sin, compromise and disobedience to the Word of God. Scripture is clear:

- "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- "Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." (1 Corinthians 5:13)

A living congregation, made up of born-again people, will not tolerate sin, but will confront it with love and firmness, following the principles of spiritual discipline (Matthew 18:15-17).

The new birth produces a hatred of sin and a sincere desire for holiness. Such

a Christian will not be able to have real fellowship in a place where sin is ignored or accepted, because the Holy Spirit within him will rebuke him and call him to separation.

If you are in a living body, where sin is not tolerated but is confronted in the spirit of meekness and of truth, as Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 5, this is a sign that the new birth may be genuine.

Paul says clearly: "do not ye judge them that are within? ... Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven" (1 Corinthians 5:6-7)

This shows that a spiritually healthy congregation will not tolerate sin in its midst, but will seek purity, holiness and mutual edification. Scripture warns earnestly: "lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright." (Hebrews 12:16)

This verse underlines how serious spiritual compromise is and how easily what is holy can be lost when sin is tolerated or ignored. A living congregation will see to it that no member lives in the flesh, but is urged on to repentance, holiness and maturity in Christ.

Only such an environment — pure, living and subject to the Word — can be the place where a genuine new birth takes place. God places the members born of Him in a living Body, which lives in obedience to His commandments and where each part contributes to the building up of the others, in holiness and truth.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To remain in a congregation that tolerates sin and disobedience means:

- To accept compromise and to close one's eyes to living in sin.
- To put personal comfort or social ties above the purity of the Body of Christ.
- To keep company with those who practise sin, which is condemned by God. (Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? 2 Corinthians 6:14; God says to the wicked: "When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, And hast been partaker with adulterers." Psalm 50:16-18)

God does not place the members born of His Spirit in a place where sin is tolerated and where the fear of God is lacking. Therefore, such a choice shows that a genuine new birth has not taken place. God places His members in the Body of Christ, where holiness and obedience reign, where Christ is acknowledged and honoured as the Head. Where there is no obedience to His commandments, there is no life, but spiritual death — a dead body, in which Christ is not present. Just as the body cannot live without the head, so a congregation that does not submit to Christ cannot be a place where the Holy Spirit is at work. Scripture says: "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth

them, he it is that loveth me" (John 14:21) — and where there is no true love for Christ, neither is His presence there.

Question 3. Are you just an ordinary member of the congregation you belong to?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider yourself "just an ordinary member" of the congregation means:

- Not to understand the calling that every believer has in the Body of Christ.
- To live in passivity, without involvement, which contradicts the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a born-again person.
- To ignore the fact that every member is important and necessary for the growth of the other members of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Such a mindset is characteristic of a dead body, in which Christ is not present as the Head and the Holy Spirit is not at work. Where there is no obedience, involvement and mutual edification, there is no life, but spiritual death.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** God naturally places the one born of His Spirit in the fellowship of a spiritual family — the living Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this Body, no one is "insignificant", but every member is absolutely necessary. "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee." (1 Corinthians 12:21)

This is God's part for every believer: a living community, in which Christ is the Head and the Holy Spirit works actively in every member. Each member has a unique role, appointed by Him, and is called to serve according to the gift received: "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another" (1 Peter 4:10)

A born-again person cannot remain passive or anonymous in a congregation, but is called to be active, to contribute to the building up of the Body and to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. The Church is the place appointed by God for the perfecting of the saints, so that they may come to the stature of the fulness of Christ, and every believer has an essential role in the growth of the others, according to the working of each part. (from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body. Ephesians 4:16)

The members care for one another, and when one suffers, all suffer with it, as it is written: "that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

In such an environment the conditions for a real new birth are present, because there the Holy Spirit is at work, bringing growth and mutual edification.

Question 4. Do you think that a born-again Christian can go away for work and be absent from the Body of Christ for months or even years at a time?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The one who is born again is placed by God in the Body of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 12:18, which is a living organism, not a religious organization. Just as no organ of the human body can function apart from the body, so no born-again member can live far from brotherly fellowship for months or years without being spiritually dead.

Imagine that the pancreas or the stomach left the body for a long period. Could they still live? Could they still serve the body? Obviously not. They are closely bound to the rest of the body by nerves, blood vessels and vital functions. So it is with the members of the Body of Christ: "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26)

The purpose of the new birth is not only the salvation of the soul, but also growth toward spiritual maturity, until we come to the stature of a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

This spiritual growth to maturity can be achieved only according to the plan of God, who appointed the Body of Christ — the Church — as the place where every member contributes to the growth of the others. As Scripture says in Ephesians 4:16: "from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body".

This growth cannot take place outside the Body, but takes place within it — where every member, closely joined to the others, contributes, serves and is built up through the work of the others. To live outside this reality means to live outside the will of God and His plan for the Church.

If in a congregation it is accepted that "members" may be away for years and still be regarded as part of the Body, then that is not the Body of Christ, but a human structure. And there is no new birth there either, because the Holy Spirit does not form isolated believers, but unites them in a life of fellowship, service and mutual dependence.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider that a born-again person can be away for months or years and still be regarded as part of His Body means:

- To ignore the living and interdependent nature of the Body of Christ.
- To turn the congregation into a place of gathering, not a living fellowship.
- To tolerate a life without fellowship, without rebuke, without service – which completely contradicts the born-again life.

Such a teaching shows that a genuine new birth has not taken place, neither in those who have gone away nor in those who remain and accept this state of affairs.

God does not give birth to isolated members, but binds them closely to one another, in love and service.

Question 5. At your new birth, did you have a spiritual father, as Timothy had Paul?

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** To say that you have been born again, but did not have a spiritual father, means:

- To ignore the biblical pattern of discipleship and of spiritual growth.
- To assume that a spiritual infant can feed himself and develop on his own, which is contrary to Scripture.
- To confuse preachers or religious leaders with true spiritual fathers.
- A spiritual birth without family, care and guidance raises serious questions about its genuineness.
- To ignore the responsibility of the Body to raise and protect those who are newly born.

Such a situation shows that a genuine new birth has not taken place, neither in those who ought to be fathers nor in those who are regarded as "infants".

God does not give birth to children in order to leave them orphans. The Holy Spirit works in a living Body, where every infant is entrusted to spiritual fathers who watch over him with love and responsibility.

The Holy Spirit leaves no one an orphan, but works through mature brothers who care for those who are young in the faith, giving them food, rebuke, encouragement and direction.

Where this work is absent, there is not the Body of Christ, but a dead structure, lacking life and the presence of the Head, who is Christ.

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** A born-again Christian, like an infant, needs a spiritual father to care for him, to teach him, to rebuke him with love and to help him grow in Christ.

Just as Timothy had Paul — not only as a teacher, but as a spiritual father — so God appoints people mature in the faith to give birth to disciples and to form them. Paul calls Timothy "my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:17) and addresses to him words full of fatherly care: "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy..." (1 Timothy 1:18).

The new birth is not just a personal experience, but an entry into a spiritual family. To have a spiritual father is evidence that you have been received into the Body of Christ and that God has appointed for you a healthy growth, not a life of isolation or of spiritual self-teaching.

Where there are spiritual fathers, living fellowship, rebuke in love and growth in obedience to the Word, the conditions of a genuine new birth are present. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in a living body, where every member has its place,

serves and is served, and Christ is the Head who gives life, direction and unity.

Question 6. Do you consider that you have experienced the new birth even though God has not done His part in His relationship with you — He has not provided you with a spiritual father to care for you, and you have had to feed only on sermons, like an orphan child raised in an institution?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To say that you have been born again, but that God has not done His part — He has not given you a spiritual father and has left you to feed only on sermons — means accusing God of beginning a work but not completing it. It is:

- A grave accusation against the faithfulness of God.
- Evidence that what the new birth truly means has not been understood.
- A confirmation that the transformation brought about by the Holy Spirit did not take place. A child born of God is not an orphan. If you have lived as a spiritual orphan — without fellowship, without guidance, without a spiritual father such as Paul was for Timothy and Titus — then you must stop and ask yourself: "Have I truly been born again?" God does not make mistakes. The problem is not with Him, but with you.

We see the exception in the case of the conversion of Paul, who had a direct and supernatural encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus. But even he, after that experience, was integrated into the Body of Christ, received confirmation from other believers and himself became a spiritual father for others.

Therefore, a genuine new birth is never an isolated process, but always involves fellowship, discipleship and belonging to the Body of Christ.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A person who has truly been born again cannot say that God has forgotten him or that He has not done His part in His relationship with him. The heavenly Father is faithful and does not give birth to children in order to abandon them.

If someone claims to have been born again, but has had no care, guidance, fellowship or spiritual father, and has only fed on sermons like an institutionalized orphan, then he must honestly ask himself: Was it truly a new birth? Or only a religious emotion?

The new birth is followed by a new life, in which God personally cares for His child, through spiritual fathers, through living fellowship and through the work of the Holy Spirit. If it is not so, it is not God who has made a mistake; rather, the birth has not taken place. God does not forget any of those born of Him. Scripture says clearly that God is our Father: "And will be a Father unto you, And ye shall be my sons and daughters" (2 Corinthians 6:18)

Question 7. Do you believe that a person can be truly born again if he lives

on his own, without being a member of the Church of Christ? (Colossians 2:19)

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again person cannot live in isolation, but is, as a matter of course, placed by the Lord as a member in His Body, that is, in the living Church, made up of born-again people. As it is written: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)

Scripture states clearly that God is the One who places each member in the Body: "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body" (1 Corinthians 12:18)

This means that the new birth is not only an individual experience, but a divine integration into a living Body, where every believer is first served as an infant — fed, cared for and formed — so that, in time, he himself comes to serve, having a place, a function and a responsibility in the building up of the others.

Just as a member cannot live apart from the body, so a born-again Christian cannot live far from brotherly fellowship, from rebuke, from teaching and from mutual service: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13) "For as the body is one, and hath many members, ... so also is Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The new birth makes you part of a living Body. If someone lives alone, without fellowship, without close bonds with other members of the Body of Christ, without being under spiritual authority and without serving others, that person is not born again, but only has a form of godliness. God does not give birth to children in order to leave them isolated, but places them in the Body of Christ. (But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body... 1 Corinthians 12:18)

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To say that you can be born again and yet live alone, without being a member of a living congregation, means:

- To ignore the organic and interdependent nature of the Body of Christ.
- To live an individualistic faith, cut off from the biblical pattern of fellowship and mutual service.
- To deny the work of the Holy Spirit, who unites all those who are born again into one Body.

Such a life shows that a genuine new birth has not taken place, because a person born of God will seek fellowship and will feel the need for correction, for teaching and for service. Isolation is a sign of spiritual death, not of new life. ("and not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." Colossians 2:19)

The Peace of the Kingdom of God

Question 8. Do you consider it right for a Christian to resist if someone wants to do him harm?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you choose not to resist the one who does you harm, but to respond with meekness, love and trust in God, this shows that you have understood the values of the Kingdom of God and live as a disciple of Christ. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:39: "but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." This means that:

- You do not repay evil with evil, but leave everything in the hands of God (Romans 12:19).
- You choose the way of humility and forgiveness, not of resistance and revenge.
- You live in the confidence that God is your defender and that He sees and rewards.
- As His disciple, you have chosen to live as the Lord Jesus lived.

This transformed life shows itself through real discipleship, in which the Kingdom of God becomes the supreme priority, and the non-resistance of the Lord Jesus toward those who crucified Him becomes your pattern of life. As Scripture teaches us: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21)

This attitude is not weakness, but the power of the Holy Spirit working in the one who is born again.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If you say that you agree with resisting the one who does you harm, you contradict the teaching of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 5:39, which says very clearly not to resist those who do you harm. Resistance, the desire to obtain justice for yourself:

- Betrays a heart that has not been transformed by the grace of Christ.
- Goes against the commandments of the Lord, who calls us to love our enemies and to bless those who persecute us.
- Opposes the personal example of the Lord Jesus, who, "when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (1 Peter 2:23).

If you do not receive the Word of God with an open heart, there can be no genuine new birth. Resistance to the Word means rejecting the seed from which the new man is born. If it is rejected, the seed is "corrupted", and so the process of the new birth is compromised. Such an attitude shows that the heart is not good ground, fit to bear fruit. (Luke 8:15)

Question 9. Do you consider it right for a born-again Christian to do military service, to work in institutions such as the police, the gendarmerie or as

a security guard (bodyguard), or to take an oath that he will defend his country at the cost of his life? Would you do this if you were asked to?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A born-again Christian, who lives in obedience to Christ, cannot accept involvement in institutions that entail violence, coercion or loyalty to worldly authorities. The Lord Jesus said: "Love your enemies..." (Matthew 5:44). He also commanded: "Swear not at all..." (Matthew 5:34). Therefore:

- Taking part in the army, the police or other armed forces contradicts the call to peace, meekness and non-resistance.
- Taking an oath to defend one's country at the cost of one's life implies a loyalty that comes into conflict with obedience to Christ.
- A Christian is called to be a witness of peace, not of war or of worldly authority.

The refusal to be involved in such institutions and to take an oath is a sign of a sensitive conscience and of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

✗ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** To consider it right for a Christian to serve in military or armed institutions and to take an oath to defend his country at the cost of his life contradicts the spirit of the Gospel. These institutions:

- Operate on the basis of force and coercion, which contradicts the commandment to love our enemies.
- Demand submission in things that go against the values of the Kingdom of God.
- Require you to break the Word, which explicitly forbids oaths (swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath. James 5:12)

Moreover, if you take such an oath, but in your heart you know that you will never use force — even when you are ordered to — then you are not only in a position of moral compromise, but you also become a liar. Your oath becomes a form of hypocrisy, because you promise something you do not intend to do.

This is no proof of courage or of faith, but proof that the new birth has not taken place. Accepting to take an oath shows that you have not received the teaching of the Lord Jesus, who says: "but I say unto you, Swear not at all..." (Matthew 5:34). This means that the ground which ought to receive the Word of Christ is trodden down. The new life is marked by good ground, which receives the Word and bears fruit.

The Righteousness of the Kingdom of God

Question 10. Are you hungry and thirsty for the righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom, and do you seek, above all, His righteousness? (Matthew 6:33)

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you are truly hungry and thirsty for His righteousness, which is lived in the Kingdom of God, this is a sign of a genuine new birth.

The Lord Jesus said: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6) This hunger and thirst are not just passing emotions, but a deep and constant desire to live a life of righteousness, in accordance with His will. The righteousness that is lived in the Kingdom is practical and visible, and it shows itself concretely through:

- Truth instead of lies – You tell the truth even when it costs you, without distorting reality.
- Sincerity instead of cunning – You do not manipulate or hide your intentions, but are pure in speech and in heart.
- Integrity instead of compromise – You refuse bribes, fraud, undeclared work, cheating at school or any dishonest gain.
- Moral purity instead of hidden sin – You avoid the corrupt values of the world, filthy images and impure thoughts, living a life of holiness.
- Justice in your relationships with others – You do not cheat, you do not exploit, you do not speak ill of others, but seek the good of your neighbour.
- Transparency instead of hypocrisy – You do not wear a religious mask, but live genuinely before God and men.
- Love of what is pure and holy – You do not only flee from evil, but love what is right, pure and pleasing to God.

This thirst for righteousness is the sign of a regenerated heart, which can no longer be content with a duplicitous or superficial life. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the one who is born again.

❌ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you are not hungry and thirsty for the righteousness required by the Kingdom of God, then there can be no talk of a genuine new birth. As Scripture says in 1 John 3:10: "whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God".

Righteousness is not optional; it is the mark of those who belong to Christ.

The lack of this desire shows itself through:

- Accepting lies as normal, whether in seemingly insignificant details or as a way of avoiding unpleasant consequences.
- Cunning and manipulation in relationships, deceit in order to gain advantages.
- Moral and financial compromises, such as bribery or undeclared work.
- Indifference to sin and the lack of a real struggle against it.
- Living a double life, with a religious face in public and a hidden life in sin. This hidden life may also include sexual impurity, uncontrolled desires and shameful deeds that defile the soul and separate it from the holiness of God. If you do not have this hunger and thirst for what is right, pure and holy, it is a sign that your heart has not been regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

Question 11. Do you consider it justified for a born-again Christian not to declare all his income and not to pay his taxes?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If someone, even if he is poor, works without a legal contract and does not pay his taxes, he directly breaks the law of Christ. The Lord Jesus taught us to be ready to give to the one who asks of us, and not to resist the one who wants to go to law with us, but to give him our shirt as well, not just our coat. In Luke 6:29–30, He says: "him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again."

These commandments were given in a specific historical context: the Jews lived under Roman occupation, and Roman soldiers had the legal authority to demand goods, taxes or even forced labour from the local population.

The Lord Jesus did not tell His disciples to revolt, but taught them to respond with a submissive heart, in accordance with His commandments. This attitude of voluntary submission and of giving up personal rights reflects the values of those who are in the Kingdom of God.

In the same line of thought, we find His commandment: "Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's..." (Matthew 22:21). The apostle Paul reinforces this principle when he says: "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due..." (Romans 13:7). This commandment is not an exception, but a logical continuation of the principle of not resisting the one who takes by force, and of living in submission to our Teacher.

The paying of tribute, in its historical context, expressed submission to an authority that was often unjust, but ordained by God. By contrast, today's taxes no longer have the oppressive character of tribute, but represent a responsible contribution to the common good, returning to society in the form of infrastructure and public services.

Therefore, refusing to pay taxes is not only a legal offence, but a form of not receiving the commandments of Christ. This failure to receive the Word shows that the new life, which is born of obedience to Christ, is not present.

Undeclared work is considered:

- A form of disguised theft, since it involves receiving or giving money in secret, without paying the legal obligations.
- Tax evasion, that is, a deception of the state and of society by avoiding the payment of the taxes and duties owed, which is governed by Law no. 241/2005.

Not paying taxes is not a minor mistake, but an act of theft, an iniquity — a conscious choice to live in disobedience to the commandments of Christ. The life of a disciple requires complete obedience, including in matters of integrity toward the authorities and respect for the laws. To live deliberately in sin contradicts the nature of a life transformed by God.

Scripture states in 1 John 3:9: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; ... and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." This does not mean that the believer never makes mistakes, but that he cannot live wilfully and continually in sin, because

he has been renewed, and the Holy Spirit works in him a life of holiness.

To justify undeclared work or tax avoidance is a clear sign that the heart has not been transformed. A person born of God is sensitive to the commandments of Christ, loves what is right and departs from iniquity.

Undeclared work, lived as a way of life, is not just an occasional mistake, but a continual sin — a deliberate choice to live in dishonesty and in disobedience to the authorities. If you have lived for years in this sin — justifying undeclared work or tax avoidance — and the church you belong to has tacitly accepted this sin in its midst, then it is in the same state as you: far from the righteousness that characterizes the Kingdom of God.

Such a church, which does not rebuke sin and does not call to repentance, is a church without life. Even if the activities go on, the singing resounds and the sermons are preached, if the Holy Spirit is not working holiness and transformation, the body is dead. And those who belong to such a congregation are dead members — physically present, but cut off from the life that comes from Christ.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** A genuine new birth does not mean a mere religious affiliation, but a profound transformation of the heart — the sincere desire to have a righteous character, like the One you follow.

This transformed life shows itself through real discipleship, in which the Kingdom of God becomes the supreme priority, and His righteousness – your pattern of life, as Scripture teaches us: "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).

It is a life lived as Christ lived, in truth, with integrity and submission to the requirements of the righteousness of God — a call to give up every compromise and to walk daily in the light, on the narrow way of righteousness.

Even when you go through financial hardship because of unfair competition — when others hide their income and you choose to be honest by paying your taxes — if you remain determined not to compromise, you prove that you are living the practical righteousness that God requires. This attitude reflects:

- A heart of integrity which, above gain, honours Christ.
- A deep trust in God's care, even in times of want.

To live in the light and in the truth shows a heart sensitive to the will of God and a sincere desire to live in accordance with the values of His Kingdom. Paying taxes, even when those around you choose otherwise, shows a heart that loves righteousness.

But choosing righteousness is not enough if you do not also choose fellowship with those who walk with a pure heart. If the church you belong to tacitly accepts this sin — such as tax fraud, for example — and you choose to remain in it without taking a stand, you are a partaker in their sin. Scripture warns clearly: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of

her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). To live in the light also means to separate yourself from darkness, even if this choice involves painful breaks. (see also 2 Corinthians 6:14,17)

To be a disciple of Christ means to choose **the way of the few — the narrow way of righteousness.** It is a difficult road, but a blessed one. Rejoice, for the Kingdom belongs to those who are persecuted because they live with integrity (Matthew 5:10).

Question 12. Do you believe that a person can be born again even if his life is marked by serving two masters — that is, a life divided between God and the desire for gain?

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** This answer reflects a wrong understanding of the new birth. The new birth is not just a change of status, but a change of direction, of motivation and of master. As it is written: "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

His life is new, with other priorities, other desires, another direction. The new birth entails a call to discipleship and to complete obedience to Christ.

Serving two masters is a life divided between God and the desire for gain. It is not only about the rich — the poor man too can serve Mammon.

Greed does not necessarily mean having millions, but living in a state of constant discontent with what you have, always wanting more, no matter how much you already have. It is a subtle form of idolatry — a disguised worship of self and of the illusion of personal security.

The Lord Jesus said that we cannot serve God and Mammon (Matthew 6:24), showing that serving requires total devotion, not a heart divided between God and the desire for gain.

Serving two masters is not just a wrong choice, but a form of disobedience to the commandments of Christ, who demands a whole heart and exclusive loyalty. Such a person, even if he declares himself a believer, but lives for himself, for money, work and selfish interests, **does not live as a new creature**, as Christ requires. (Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:19)

The Lord Jesus stated forcefully that there is no neutrality in the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel of Luke, He says: "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." (Luke 11:23).

He makes it clear that a person's heart always follows what he values most: "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). If the treasure is the things on earth — money, possessions or personal security — then the heart too will be bound to these passing things.

To keep setting your mind on the things on earth, instead of seeking those which are above, and to live in order to accumulate, is not only a selfish and wrong choice, but a way that leads to destruction. The Lord Jesus calls the man who puts his trust in the goods of this world, without thinking of his soul, a "fool": "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee..." (Luke 12:20-21)

Greed is placed on the same level as idolatry, debauchery and fornication — sins that destroy not only the soul of the one who practises them, but also the purity and the testimony of the Christian community. Therefore greed is not just a problem of wrong priorities, but a grave offence before God. Scripture is categorical: "Be not deceived: ... nor covetous, ... shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Moreover, Scripture condemns greed not merely as a personal weakness, but as a grave sin that must not be tolerated in the midst of the Church. Paul writes firmly: "not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be ... covetous" (1 Corinthians 5:11). A church that tolerates such sins proves that it does not have Christ as its Head and is therefore a dead church.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** This is the correct answer. A genuine new birth does not leave a person unchanged, but produces a transformed life. True faith leads a person to renounce himself and to follow Christ with all his heart. Grace does not cancel man's responsibility, but makes it possible.

The life of a disciple is a call to complete dedication. Like a soldier who does not let himself be distracted by everyday cares, the disciple of Christ is called to stay focused on his heavenly goal — that of becoming like his Teacher.

Scripture reminds us that "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:4). This image clearly underlines that the life of discipleship cannot coexist with a life centred on accumulating material goods or on the desire to keep pace with the ways of the world.

The disciple does not live for the passing things of the earth, but for what is eternal. He chooses to live as his Teacher lived — with his eyes and his heart turned toward heaven.

He sets his thoughts and efforts on the things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2). His aim is not to gather for himself, but to reflect the character of Christ — a character defined by selfless love, not by selfishness. True love, as it is described in 1 Corinthians 13:5, "seeketh not her own", but the good of the other. This is the essence of a life lived in genuine discipleship.

Laying up treasures for oneself is contrary to the spirit of discipleship. While the world values the accumulation of material goods, the disciple of Christ is called to use **all that he has — resources, time, abilities** — to invest in eternal purposes: to meet the needs of those around him and to contribute to the spreading of the

Kingdom of God. "The labour of the righteous tendeth to life" (Proverbs 10:16), not to building an illusory security in this present world.

If until now you have lived with the thought of gathering treasures on earth, it is time to redirect your heart. The true treasure is in heaven, and it is gathered through generosity, service and a life lived in obedience to Christ. Align your life with His will and you will discover the riches that do not perish.

Question 13. Do you consider it right, when you are in hospital, to give gifts or money to doctors and nurses?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you choose not to give money or gifts to medical staff, even "when in need", this shows that you want to live in the practical righteousness and justice required by the Kingdom of God. According to Scripture, bribery is a sin and a form of injustice. In Exodus 23:8 it says: "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." To give money or gifts in connection with medical care:

- Is regarded as a bribe, even if it is disguised as a "gesture of thanks".
- Encourages a corrupt and unjust system, in which some receive better care only if they pay extra.
- Contradicts the spirit of the Gospel, which calls us to honesty, transparency and respect for the law.

Refusing such practices is a sign that shows you want to live in accordance with the practical righteousness required by the Kingdom of God.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "Yes" and you consider it right to give money or gifts to doctors and nurses, even "when in need", you must know that this practice is a sin from a biblical and moral point of view. Even though it is widespread in society, it:

- Is a form of bribery, which corrupts justice and creates inequality.
- Becomes an occasion of sin for those to whom you offer it, because, as Ecclesiastes 7:7 says, **"a gift destroyeth the heart"** — that is, it impairs moral discernment and corrupts the conscience. And the Lord Jesus warns earnestly: **"woe unto him, through whom they come!"** (Luke 17:1)

This shows that you have not received the Word of Christ (the seed), and one cannot speak of a genuine new birth, nor of discipleship to Christ. If the church you are in tolerates bribery, this reflects a state of grave deception. Such a mindset is characteristic of a dead body, in which Christ is not present.

Question 14. Is it a way of life for you to drive constantly more than 10 km/h over the legal limit, to carry more people than the vehicle registration certificate allows, or not to wear a seat belt?

☑ **Correct answer: No — Explanation:** If you are not in the habit of breaking the traffic rules — such as exceeding the speed limit set by law, carrying

more people than is allowed — and if you wear your seat belt — this shows that you want to live in accordance with the practical righteousness required by the Kingdom of God. According to Romans 13:1-2, the authorities are ordained of God, and their laws must be respected. To drive responsibly means:

- Respect for your own life and for the lives of those around you.
- Obedience to God, who calls us to be disciplined and honest.
- A transformed heart, which does not look for excuses for attitudes of disobedience.

A child of God does not habitually live in breach of the law, but seeks to be an example of honesty, care and obedience. This shows that he wants to live in accordance with the righteousness required by God.

❌ **Wrong answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you have made breaking the traffic rules — such as exceeding the legal speed limit, carrying more people than the registration certificate allows, or not wearing a seat belt — a way of life, this reflects an attitude of carelessness toward the law, toward your own life and the lives of others, but above all a heart that is not submitted to God. This attitude:

- Contradicts the biblical teaching in Romans 13, which calls us to submit to the authorities ordained by God.
- Is a form of disobedience, incompatible with the life of the one born of God, who, having a heart sensitive to sin through the work of the Holy Spirit, loves what is right and departs from iniquity. It may seem a minor detail, but it reflects a heart that is not attentive to the will of God in the things that call for submission to the authorities.

Taking the driving test in order to obtain a driving licence involves a clear commitment: that we will respect the traffic rules and drive responsibly. To break these rules deliberately, after we have committed ourselves to respect them, means not only breaking the law, but also a lack of integrity before God and men.

If the Lord Jesus had lived on earth today, He would never knowingly have driven illegally. If He had obtained a driving licence, He would not have ignored the traffic rules, because His life was marked by complete obedience — both toward God and toward the laws of men, as long as these did not contradict the divine will. He lived in holiness and in respect for every legitimate authority, giving us a perfect example to follow.

Therefore, neither can the disciple who is determined to live like his Teacher live in compromise or indifference toward the law. To follow Christ means to live with a clear conscience, attentive to the will of God.

Therefore, neglecting these "things that seem small" is a form of not receiving the commandments of Christ and a sign that the Holy Spirit does not dwell and is not at work in that heart. If you have considered yourself a believer for years and you live like this, it raises a question mark over whether the new life has truly

begun.

If the church you belong to tolerates disobedience to the authorities ordained by God, this is a clear sign of a state of spiritual error. Where Christ is not acknowledged as the Head, the body is without life.

Question 15. Can a Christian born of God, called to reject the values of the world, knowingly expose himself to settings such as public beaches or swimming pools, where the body is exposed and sin is promoted, knowing that these influence the heart and the mind and feed the lusts of the flesh?

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you understand God's call to live in holiness, purity and separation from the values of the world, then you will recognize that voluntary exposure to settings that promote the exposure of the body and the desires of the flesh — such as public beaches or swimming pools — is not fitting for a born-again Christian.

Scripture says clearly: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world..." (1 John 2:15) "Flee also youthful lusts..." (2 Timothy 2:22) "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8) A born-again Christian: Does not seek places that can defile his eyes, his mind and his heart. Is aware that the eyes can become a gateway to sin (Matthew 5:28). Lives with discernment, choosing to keep away from any setting that can feed the flesh.

Avoiding such places is not legalism, but the evidence of a transformed heart, which loves purity and wants to be pleasing to God in all things.

❌ **Answer: Yes (wrong) — Explanation:** If you say that it is fitting for a born-again Christian to frequent places where the exposure of the body and the desires of the flesh are promoted, such as public beaches, you are deceiving yourself. This attitude:

- Contradicts the call to holiness and separation from the world (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- Exposes the heart and the mind to temptations and images that can defile the soul.
- Shows that you do not understand that exposing your own body can become an occasion of sin for others. The Lord Jesus showed how serious such a sin is: "woe unto him, through whom they come!" (Luke 17:1)
- Shows that you lack spiritual discernment and that you do not live in the fear of God.

If you see no problem in exposing yourself or in looking at such settings, it is a sign that the new life is not present. As the Lord Jesus says in Luke 8, the Word of God is the seed that falls into different hearts. A heart that does not receive the Word cannot bear the fruit of a transformed life.

Question 16. Can someone be born again if he lives constantly in anger, without this attitude being changed after the image of Christ?

❌ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered "Yes", it is a clear sign that you have not fully understood God's plan for salvation. Salvation is not just a legal forgiveness of sins, but a call to a new life — a profound transformation of the being, a restoration of the image of God in man and a spiritual growth up to "the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

If, after years of Christian life, anger remains a way of life, this is not just a human weakness, but evidence that the new birth has not truly taken place. In such a case, it is a sign that the Holy Spirit is not present to convict of this grave sin. A heart born of God is sensitive to the rebuke of the Spirit and cannot live comfortably in this sin. The absence of inner conviction shows a separation from the work of the Holy Spirit.

Anger lived constantly, as a way of life, reflects a heart that has not been regenerated. The Lord Jesus said: "whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:22). Living repeatedly in anger shows that you do not care about the Lord's warning and that you have not truly received His Word.

Scripture states: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; ... and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (1 John 3:9). Therefore, a life marked by anger and disobedience shows that the new life is not present.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The answer "No" shows a right understanding of salvation. Entry into the Kingdom of God is possible through His grace and mercy, but this grace does not cancel man's responsibility — rather, it makes it possible.

God calls us to work together with Him in the process of salvation and sanctification. The apostle Paul exhorts us: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12-13) and "we are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

The new birth is not just a change of status, but the beginning of a new life — a life of self-denial, of obedience and of seeking the things of the Kingdom of God. To live constantly in sin, whether it is anger or another form of disobedience, and to hope only in a final mercy, without a transformed life, is a dangerous illusion.

The life of discipleship entails a daily walk in obedience to Christ, with the sincere desire to become like Him. And Christ has left us a clear example: "learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Meekness and humility are essential traits of the true disciple and stand in direct contrast to the anger and pride that characterize the flesh.

Anger lived as a way of life is a continual sin, which contradicts the fruit of the Spirit and the character of Christ. Deliverance from the dominion of anger

does not come through one's own willpower, but through keeping the Word of God, which teaches us not to resist evil (Matthew 5:39), to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44) and to bless those who persecute us. To live like this means to let the Holy Spirit transform our reactions and teach us meekness, patience and peace.

A life set free from the dominion of anger, lived in meekness and longsuffering, is a sign that the condition of the new birth has been fulfilled. It is the evidence that the Word of God has not only been heard, but also kept and fulfilled in everyday life — a life in which the disciple becomes more and more like his Teacher.

Question 17. Can a person be truly born again if he does not guard himself and feeds on the sources of the world, such as the inappropriate content and images frequently found on the internet and on television screens, which arouse sinful desires, contrary to the biblical exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life"?

❌ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered "Yes", it is a sign that you have not fully understood the purpose of the grace of God. Grace is not an excuse to live in sin, but a call to a new, pure and holy life. Salvation is not just a legal forgiveness, but a profound work of transformation of the heart and of the mind.

The new birth brings with it a radical change of outlook and of desires. If someone has made a covenant with the Lord and continues to live constantly in the pleasures of the world — such as consuming immoral content, entertainment that stirs up the lust of the flesh, or spending time in front of screens with things that defile the soul — this is evidence that the new birth has not taken place.

Scripture says: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3) "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity" (Psalm 119:37) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." (1 John 2:15)

The born-again person no longer feeds on the counsel of the ungodly, but finds his delight in the law of the Lord. As Psalm 1 says: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night."

The counsel of the ungodly is not limited to immoral company, but also includes the **ideological**, cultural and **political** influences that promote dishonesty, pride, hatred and compromise. To walk in these ways means to allow the mind and the heart to be shaped by values contrary to the Kingdom of God.

Let us imagine for a moment that our Teacher, the Lord Jesus, had fed on the same things we feed on — superficial content, vain images, worldly ideologies or political speeches. Would He have become involved in the politics of this age, in the power games, in the compromises and manipulations that characterize it? Would He have done this? Would He have looked at what defiles the soul? The

answer is obvious: no.

He lived in purity, in obedience and in communion with the Father. That is why the disciple who truly wants to be like his Teacher has given up feeding on sources that contradict the character of Christ.

The disciple of Christ is called to live as his Teacher lived: to guard his heart and his eyes, to keep away from vain things and to walk in the light. He is not conformed to the pattern of this age, but lets himself be transformed by the renewing of his mind, seeking to have a pure heart, like Christ, and a life full of the fruit of the Spirit.

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The answer "No" shows a right understanding of salvation. The grace of God is not a permission to continue in sin, but the power that enables us to live a holy life. True faith is seen in the fruit of a transformed life, which rejects what defiles and seeks what edifies.

The internet can be a useful tool, but when it becomes a constant source of temptation — through images, words or ideas that inflame the flesh — it becomes an obstacle on the path of sanctification.

A born-again person will understand that the eyes are the gateway to the heart, and that what enters through them influences thinking, desires and behaviour. That is why he will take concrete measures to guard his heart, in obedience to the exhortation in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life." He will make firm resolutions, like the one expressed in Psalm 101:3: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes".

This attitude translates into practical actions, such as:

- Giving up sources of sinful influence, such as films, clips or pages that promote immorality, and also toxic content — political debates or the news.
- Setting clear limits on the time spent online and on the choice of the content consumed.
- Replacing the sources of the world with sources that build up faith.
- Seeking fellowship with other believers who can offer support, accountability and encouragement in the struggle for purity.

These decisions are not legalism, but the expression of a regenerated heart, which wants to live in purity and to be pleasing to the Lord. A genuine disciple does not play with sin, but watches, guards himself and seeks to be transformed day by day into the likeness of Christ.

A genuine disciple of Christ will not treat lightly the sin of the eyes or the subtle influences of the world. He will fight to keep his heart pure, knowing that sanctification is the living evidence of a real new birth, and that the eyes must be enlightened by the truth, not defiled by darkness.

But this watchfulness is not only a personal responsibility, but also a shared one. The leaders of the congregation have the duty to watch over souls (Hebrews

13:17) and to put in place concrete measures to protect the flock, including with regard to the use of the internet. Where there is no watchfulness, there is no Christ.

Things That Precede the New Birth

Question 18. Was your desire to be saved motivated mainly by the desire to have a share in heavenly paradise and to escape eternal punishment?

❌ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If your desire to be saved rests mainly on the hope of reaching Paradise or on the fear of eternal punishment, you need to examine your motivation honestly. Such an approach, centred on personal benefits — whether the desire for reward or the fear of hell — reflects a superficial and opportunistic understanding of God's call.

Imagine a poor young woman who dreams of a better life and agrees to become the bride of a rich man's son, not out of love, but out of a desire to escape poverty. His father would be willing to give her everything, but on one condition: that she sincerely love his son. In reality, she seeks nothing but the material advantages she could obtain, without feeling any genuine appreciation for the young man she ought to love. Would the young man's father value her?

So it is with the sinner who comes to God only for the promise of Paradise or out of fear of hell, without feeling any sincere admiration for the beauty of the character of Christ and without the desire for a real closeness to Him.

Scripture presents the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom who comes to take His Bride — the Church. If in our heart we desire something more than Christ Himself, then we have not truly understood the call of the Gospel.

The new birth is not the result of fear or of a selfish desire, but of a sincere love for Christ — for who He is, not just for what He offers. Paradise is not just a beautiful destination, but the place where we will be for ever with the One we love.

The fear of hell cannot be the foundation of a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus. A motivation based on fear or on personal interest does not reflect a genuine new birth. The Lord Jesus emphasized clearly that a relationship with Him requires a deep love and a total dedication: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37)

☑ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you answered "No", it is possible that your motivation was a sincere love for Christ — a love that does not seek reward and does not merely flee from punishment, but desires fellowship with Him. This is the foundation of a genuine new birth: a living, deep and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, based on who He is, not on what He can offer.

If you love Christ (His way of being) with all your heart, with all your mind and more than anything in the world, then the conditions for a new life and a genuine growth are fulfilled.

Question 19. When you heard the Word of the Gospel, which showed you the Lord Jesus as He truly is, were you drawn by the beauty of His character?

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you answered "Yes", it means that you may have been genuinely touched by the beauty and perfection of the character of the Lord Jesus, as He is revealed in Scripture. This attraction is not based only on what He has done for you, but above all on who He is in His essence — the way He lived in obedience to the Father.

He denied Himself, He became a bondservant, and He lived in a holy fear of God, shown through complete obedience. Such a sincere attraction to His way of being gives birth in the heart to love and to the desire to follow Him and to live like Him. This inner movement can be a clear sign of a genuine new birth.

As with love between people, true love is not born just because someone loves us or does something special for us. A young man will not truly fall in love with a girl just because he finds out that she loves him. Genuine love arises when he sees in her something beautiful, worthy of admiration — a noble character, an inner beauty that sincerely attracts him.

In the same way, the sinner who comes to God only for the promise of Paradise or out of fear of hell, without feeling a sincere admiration for the beauty of the character of Christ and without the desire for a real closeness to Him, is not living a genuine relationship. Salvation is not a mere transaction, but a relationship of love, in which the soul is drawn by the beauty of the Saviour.

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If you answered "No", it means that, until now, you have not been drawn by the beauty of the character of the Lord Jesus, as it is revealed in His Word. True love for Christ springs from a personal and deep understanding of the inner beauty of His character.

Without being sincerely drawn, there can be no genuine love, above everything else — an essential condition for being counted worthy to be His betrothed and, by implication, for experiencing the new birth.

Question 20. If the beauty of the character of the Lord Jesus has drawn you, has He become the most important being in your life, so that you love Him with all your mind, with all your heart, above everything else?

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If Christ has indeed become the most important being in your life and you love Him with all your heart, with all your mind and more than anything else, this is a sign of a genuine new birth. Such love:

- Puts Christ first in all the decisions and areas of life, without compromise.
- Shows itself in the sincere desire to live as He lived, in every aspect of your life. ("He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." 1 John 2:6)

This love comes into being when you see the character of the Lord Jesus as more precious than anything else in the world.

❌ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If your answer is "No", and you cannot say that you love Christ more than anything, then there can be no talk of a genuine new birth. For the new birth to take place, Christ must be the centre of your life and the supreme source of joy and fulfilment.

If something else — whether the world, things, desires or even your own life — occupies first place in your heart, then:

- You have not experienced a real change of priorities.
- You have not come to see the character of Christ in its beauty and majesty. You have not found the treasure hidden in the field that leads you to sell all that you have. (Matthew 13:44)
- You are not living in the love that makes you leave the old things behind in order to embrace the new things.

I encourage you to pray sincerely, to seek Him with all your heart and to discover His beauty, so that He may become your most precious treasure.

Question 21. Can you sincerely say that you have experienced the first love — the love in which the Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you, as the Betrothed of your soul?

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you have experienced the first love — that is, He is your first love, if the Lord Jesus and His Word are everything to you — then this is a sign of a genuine new birth. This love:

- Shows itself in the sincere desire to live in obedience to Christ and to His Word, not out of obligation, but out of a deep love, born of fascination with the beauty of His perfect character.
- Shapes your thinking, your choices and your values, making Christ and His Word the centre of your life, like a spiritual betrothal in which the heart is wholly dedicated to Him.
- Is marked by a deep and personal desire to have the character of Christ, and for His Word.
- Fills your heart with the desire to please Him in all things. This love is not just a passing emotion, but a living and deep bond with the Lord, which motivates your whole life.

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No" and you have not experienced the first love, in which Christ is everything to you, then there can be no talk of a covenant of betrothal or of a genuine new birth.

The first love is the sign that the heart has been deeply drawn by the beauty and the perfect character of Christ. If you do not have this love:

- You have not come to know, and to be overwhelmed by, the splendour of His character.
- His Word is not a treasure for your soul.

• It means that your relationship with Christ as your Betrothed is not a living and personal one.

The new birth is not the fruit of fear or of a selfish desire, but springs from a sincere, deep and pure love for Christ — a love that binds the heart to Him for ever. It is the beginning of a living and personal relationship, like a spiritual betrothal, in which the soul responds to the divine call.

Only this genuine love, born of the freedom of the heart, moves God to enter into a covenant with man — a holy, everlasting covenant, founded on mutual love.

This picture is beautifully illustrated in the words of the prophet Ezekiel: "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine." (Ezekiel 16:8)

The Life of Discipleship

Question 22. When you made the covenant with God, did you truly deny yourself and receive all His teaching with joy?

❌ **Answer: No**, there are still matters in which I do not agree with what He taught (wrong) — Explanation: Self-denial means giving up one's own will, one's personal opinions and any attitude that is not in agreement with God. It is the act by which a person ceases to govern himself and submits entirely to the divine will.

The opposite of self-denial is to be your own god — to live by your own convictions, even when they contradict the teachings of Christ. To make yourself equal with God, in the negative sense, means to keep your spiritual autonomy, to refuse correction and to regard yourself as the supreme authority in your life. It is a subtle but profound form of pride and of resistance to divine truth.

The Lord Jesus, though He was in the form of God, denied Himself and chose complete obedience. If we do not deny ourselves, as He did, but hold on to our opinions, to our will, to our resistance to the Word, then we cannot speak of a genuine new birth. Self-denial is the evidence that we have given up being "gods" in our own eyes and have chosen to be disciples of Christ.

The true new birth:

• Comes from a submissive heart, which accepts and loves the whole teaching of Christ, not just the convenient parts.

• Leaves no room for bargaining with the will of God, but will bring about a transformation of the mind and of the heart.

• Comes from renouncing self, in order to live in obedience and in service.

If you still resist the teachings of Christ — even in a single respect — this is

a sign that you have not truly been born again. Resistance to the Word of Christ, which is the seed of God, means rejecting the source through which the new man comes into being. Where the seed is not received, the ground is trodden down and life cannot take root.

I encourage you to draw near to God with sincerity, to deny yourself and to give up the desire to be equal with God.

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If you have denied yourself — your will, your natural desires and your worldly thinking — this is a sign of a genuine new birth and of real discipleship. Self-denial is the foundation of discipleship, as the Lord said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

This call is reinforced by the words of the Lord in Luke 14:27, which underline the seriousness of discipleship: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Therefore, discipleship is not a superficial choice, but a life of self-renunciation, of obedience and of following Christ with all one's heart. Self-denial:

- Means giving up the right to run your life according to your own plans and submitting entirely to the will of God.
- Shows itself through deep love and through complete obedience, even when the teachings of Christ are hard or contrary to your nature.
- Is evidence that Christ is truly the Lord of your life. This self-denial is possible only when we are deeply fascinated by Christ and by His Word and love Him with all our heart.

Self-denial is not a mere exercise of the will or a moral discipline imposed from outside. It springs from a heart that has seen the inner beauty of the character of Christ. When our spiritual eyes are opened to admire Christ for how He lived in obedience to the Father, then our will begins to bow naturally before His will.

Fascination with Christ is not a passing emotion, but a deep attraction that transforms. When we truly love Him, we no longer want to run our own lives. We no longer want to keep our own opinions if they are not in agreement with His. We begin to desire what He desires, to think as He thinks, to live as He lived.

Question 23. Can you say that, as a result of your decision, all things have become new and the old things have passed away, as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says?

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No", then there can be no talk of a genuine new birth. It is essential that you stop and examine yourself honestly. The new birth is not just an emotional decision or a verbal declaration, but a profound and visible transformation of the life, of the priorities and of the thinking.

The apostle Paul leaves no room for interpretation when he says: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the

right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

If, after years of faith, your life is still centred on the old things — such as work from morning till night, comfort, earthly achievements — while the Kingdom of God is left in second place, then you are not living in obedience to Christ. Not to obey this commandment means to live in contradiction with the new identity you claim to have in Christ.

Paul warns with sorrow: "For many walk, ... that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, ... who mind earthly things." (Philippians 3:18-19) The true new birth produces a radical change:

- The mind is turned toward heaven.
- The heart is attached to Christ.
- The priorities are the new things, the things above.
- Life is lived in obedience and discipleship.

To go on living as before, only with a religious façade, but without a real change at the centre of your life, is a dangerous self-deception. It is not enough to go to church or to pray. If you do not seek the things above, you are not living as one who is risen with Christ.

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If this is confirmed by life and conduct, then it is a genuine new birth. It is not a mere religious decision, but a profound transformation of the mind, of the heart and of conduct. The desires have changed, sin no longer has power, and life is led by the Holy Spirit.

The values, priorities and goals are no longer tied to earthly things, but are centred on becoming like Christ. As Scripture says: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: ... even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

But if your answer is "yes", yet, looking honestly into the mirror of the Word, you notice that not all things have become new, but that you have kept old things in your life, then you must humbly acknowledge that you are in a state of self-deception.

It is easy to say that you are in Christ, but if your life does not reflect a clear break with the past, if worldly habits, attitudes and attachments still define the way you live, then you are not what you claim to be. Scripture warns: "be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

By way of example, we will take a concrete case of an old thing that has not become new — involvement in the affairs of this world, especially in the politics of the day — something characteristic of many who believe they have experienced the new birth.

Reality shows that this attachment to the systems of the world persists even in the lives of those who say they have long been on the path of faith, betraying a

lack of genuine transformation. To engage emotionally in elections, in ideological debates, in supporting a system or a side, shows that the old life has not truly been given up and that the values of the world still have a place in the heart.

It is evidence that the heart still lives under the influence of the flesh, anchored in the old things of the world, seeking human solutions to its problems, instead of devoting itself to discipleship in order to become like Christ.

A born-again person no longer belongs to this world. He no longer fights for earthly causes, no longer invests energy in passing structures, no longer seeks solutions through human means. He knows that his citizenship is in heaven and that he is only a stranger and a pilgrim on this earth.

If you get involved in the politics of this world, if you are troubled about who governs, who wins, who loses, then you are living as a citizen of this world, not of heaven. And if you live like that, you cannot say that all things have become new.

To understand what a new life truly means, we must look to the Lord Jesus. He is the supreme model of a life separated from the world. Although He lived in a tense political context, under Roman occupation, He did not get involved in politics, in social reforms or in worldly ideologies. He did not seek to change the system, but to save souls. He said plainly: "My kingdom is not of this world."

He was not concerned with who ruled Rome or Judaea, but with the salvation of man. And if He lived like this, the disciple too must live in the same way. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." 1 John 2:6 This is not a suggestion, but a holy calling.

To be His disciple means to follow His example in everything. If He was separate from the world, we must be too. If He did not get involved in the politics of the world, neither are we allowed to do so. To live otherwise means to deceive ourselves, even if we speak pious words.

Imagine that you are on your way to an important destination, such as Germany, and on your journey you pass through a foreign country — let us say Hungary. You do not stop to vote there, nor do you get involved in their internal politics. You do not make plans for the future in that country, because you know that you are only passing through. You have a clear destination, and the time you spend there is short and without roots.

You do not behave like a local, but like a stranger and a pilgrim who knows that he does not belong to that place. So is the life of the Christian on earth: he is not a citizen of this world, but only a stranger and a pilgrim on the way to heaven. To stop on the way in order to get entangled in the political problems of this world means to forget who you are and where you are going.

It is a subtle but dangerous deviation from the heavenly calling. And yet many who say they are born again stop. They get involved. They worry. They fight for political causes, for ideologies, for human justice. But in this commitment to

the world, they break clear commandments of Scripture. It is not just a personal choice, but conscious disobedience.

The Word of God says plainly: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1-2). But when the mind is full of news, of political analyses, of social unrest, there is no room left for the things above. The commandment is clear, and breaking it cannot be justified by good intentions or by seemingly noble motives.

The righteous man has a clear and firm attitude toward the influences of the world. He does not voluntarily expose himself to information or settings that defile the soul. Scripture says: "He that walketh righteously, ... and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil" (Isaiah 33:15). This is not a mere choice of the moment, but a discipline of the heart.

In this context, the church has the responsibility to watch that no believer is worldly and turns aside from the heavenly calling. A living church does not tolerate compromise. When its members keep the old and worldly things — such as involvement in politics — it is clear evidence that the church allows these deviations. And by this, even though it has a name that it lives, it is dead.

Psalm 1 reinforces this picture of separation from the world: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." (Psalm 1:1). The righteous man guards not only his eyes but also his steps, and the place where he sets his heart. He does not seek the counsel of the world, does not stop in its midst and does not settle comfortably into its atmosphere. He knows that every step toward worldly thinking is a step away from the mind of Christ.

We are told: "I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts..." (1 Peter 2:11). And involvement in the systems of this world shows that you are not living as a stranger, but as a citizen of the earth. Not as a stranger and a pilgrim, but as someone who has found his place here. And if you have settled comfortably in this world, how can you still say that you are on the way to heaven?

All these are not just signs of weakness, but clear evidence that the old things have not passed away. That the new life has not truly begun. That the new birth is not real, but only a form without substance. A person who feeds on the things of the world, who gets involved in the politics and ideologies of the world, who is preoccupied with the systems of this world, does not live as the Lord Jesus lived. And if he does not live like Him, he is not His disciple, however religious his life may seem.

The true new birth produces a clear break with the values of the world and an exclusive orientation toward the things above. It is a new life, not just an improved life. It is a parting from the past, not a cosmetic touch-up of it. It is a walk in the light, not a hiding in the darkness in Sunday clothes. And only there, in this new life,

does discipleship truly begin. There likeness to Christ begins. There heaven begins.

Question 24. Following your decision to follow Christ, did you begin the life of discipleship with the central aim of becoming like your Teacher?

❌ **Answer: No — Explanation:** If you did not begin the life of discipleship with the sincere desire to become like Christ, then there are serious reasons to question the genuineness of your new birth.

Discipleship is the process by which a person commits himself to follow Christ actively, learning from Him, imitating His life and living in obedience to His teachings. To be a disciple, a **follower**, means more than being a mere admirer of Jesus — it means being a dedicated learner, who shapes his whole life after the example of the Teacher. The disciple:

- Follows Christ with loyalty and perseverance;
- Seeks to know Him ever more deeply through the Word and prayer;
- Lets himself be transformed by the Holy Spirit in character and behaviour;
- Takes up the calling to carry the teaching of Christ and makes other disciples.

The true new birth:

- Is marked by a burning desire to follow Christ and to become like Him.
- The lack of this desire and of the path of discipleship shows that you have not truly understood His call. You are not, according to His words, worthy to be His disciple.

The Lord Jesus said clearly in Luke 14 that "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple".

Discipleship is not optional for the one who is born again — it is the clear evidence of a regenerated life.

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If, following the decision to follow Christ, you have humbled yourself — that is, you have become lowly and submissive to His commandments — and have stepped onto the path of discipleship with the sincere desire to become like Him, and day by day you work consciously, as a dedicated disciple, with the aim of reaching the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13), this is a sign of a genuine new birth.

Genuine discipleship means:

- To follow Christ not only by accepting His teaching, but also by living out and keeping His commandments, so that, by fulfilling them, there may be reflected in you His character, attitude and way of life.
- To let yourself be transformed continually by the Holy Spirit, so as to reflect the image of your Teacher.
- To live in self-denial, taking up your cross daily.

• To show a humility that involves submission and obedience, even when the commandments of the Lord are difficult or contrary to your nature.

Through this commitment, the heart becomes the place where God is truly at work, transforming you gradually into His image and likeness.

If your answer is "Yes", yet, looking honestly into the mirror of the Word, you notice that you have kept old things in your life — as mentioned in the previous example — then you must humbly acknowledge that this is not a life of genuine discipleship, but a state of self-deception.

Question 25. When you made this covenant, did you offer yourself willingly, and do you live as a bondservant of Christ, as He lived toward His Father? (Philippians 2:7)

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** If your answer is "No", this shows that you have not truly understood that you must willingly offer yourself as a bondservant of Christ, living in complete obedience to His commandments.

To be a bondservant means, in the general sense, to be deprived of freedom and to live in the service and under the authority of someone else. In the spiritual sense, to be a bondservant of Christ means to offer yourself willingly to His rule, living in total obedience to His will and giving up your own autonomy. It is a conscious choice to acknowledge Christ as the absolute Lord of your life.

The true new birth involves a total surrender and a life marked by continual submission to Christ, after the example He has left us. He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7), giving us a perfect model of humility and obedience.

If you do not live like this:

• You have not given up your own will.

• There can be no talk of a genuine new birth, because the Holy Spirit does not dwell in a heart that does not offer itself as a bondservant and refuses submission to the Lord.

It is vital to understand that the new birth is not just an emotional decision, but a profound transformation, which is reflected in a life of obedience to God. This inner change shows itself through a voluntary, total surrender, which leads to sanctification — an essential part of the process by which our character is shaped after that of Christ.

Scripture says clearly: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." (Romans 6:22). Without this surrender as a bondservant, there can be no sanctification, and without sanctification no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If, when you made the covenant with Christ, you offered yourself willingly and you live as His bondservant, in obedience

to all that He has commanded, then you are following His example of humility and submission to His Father (Philippians 2:7). This means that:

- You have given up your will in order to live in His will.
- You live your life in constant obedience, not selective obedience.

By way of example, we will take as a concrete study the teaching of Scripture concerning oaths and non-resistance. If the Lord Jesus commanded us not to swear and not to resist the one who does us harm, then, as one who has willingly offered himself to be a bondservant of Christ, you will apply these commandments literally and practically in your life.

You will not turn aside to the left or to the right, even if you have to suffer, because you cannot commit yourself to institutions that require these commandments to be compromised. Thus, if you are required to enlist in institutions such as the army, whether in the context of a conflict or as a legal obligation, you will remain faithful to the commandments of Christ, refusing to take part in violence or to take oaths, even at the cost of suffering or of losing certain rights.

Question 26. Is the verse in 1 John 2:6 fulfilled in your life? ("He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.")

The life of the Lord Jesus on earth was the perfect model of a life rooted in the will of the Father. Scripture shows us how He lived:

- **He denied Himself** (Philippians 2:6-7) – He gave up His heavenly glory and came into the world not to do His own will, but the will of the Father.
- **He was humble** – He did not seek honour or recognition, but lived in lowliness, submitted to the Father in all things.
- **His delight was the fear of the Lord** (Isaiah 11:3) – He lived with deep adoration and holy fear toward God, seeking to please Him in all things.
- **He became a bondservant** – He took the form of a bondservant and lived in complete obedience, serving with humility and love.

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** If your life reflects this way of living — self-denial, humility, the fear of the Lord and the obedience of a bondservant — it is a sign that you abide in Christ, that you live as He lived and that the Holy Spirit is at work in you. Living like this, we not only follow the Lord Jesus, but are gradually transformed into His image and character (2 Corinthians 3:18) — we become meek, pure, loving, patient, like Him in thought, word and deed. This likeness of your life to that of Christ is a sign of a genuine new birth, and proves that you are truly His disciple.

❌ **Answer: No — Explanation:** The true new birth entails a transformed life, which follows the example of Christ. If:

- You do not deny yourself and you live only for yourself and your family,
- You are not willing to humble yourself,
- You do not have a holy fear of God and do not seek His will,

• You do not receive and keep His commandments, even when they are hard, … then it is a sign that you have not truly been born again. If you do not live as the Lord Jesus lived, this shows that you are not truly in Him, and there can be no talk of a genuine new birth.

Whoever does not live like the Lord Jesus — in self-denial, with the heart of a bondservant, in humility, in the fear of the Lord and in obedience to all His commandments — cannot be transformed into His image. And without this transformation, there is no real evidence of abiding in Him.

I encourage you to stop, to examine yourself and to deny yourself. Learn to value the fear of the Lord — that attitude of deep adoration, reverence and obedience toward God — which was the delight of the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 11:3).

This holy fear does not mean terror, but a humble and submissive heart, ready to obey the will of the Father in every circumstance. Follow the Lord Jesus with submission, so that the Holy Spirit may change you more and more into His image.

Question 27. Is your every choice, action and plan subject to the aim of being like Christ?

☑ **Answer: Yes — Explanation:** A Christian born of the heavenly Father lives with a single aim: to be more and more like Christ. Every area of life – thinking, speaking, relationships, work, free time – is subordinated to this holy goal: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Romans 8:29) "For to me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21)

The new birth produces a radical change of direction: a person no longer lives for himself, but in order to become like Christ. This inner transformation brings all decisions, priorities and desires into line with the aim of reflecting His character every day.

To live with this aim means to be fascinated by the way the Lord Jesus lived and to long earnestly to live as He lived. The life of the Lord Jesus on earth was the perfect model of a life rooted in the will of the Father.

Scripture shows us how He lived: He denied Himself (Philippians 2:6-7). He was humble (Matthew 11:29). His delight was the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:3). He became a bondservant (Philippians 2:7). These traits are not merely ideals to be admired, but realities that must be made one's own personally in the relationship with Christ. They are not optional, but essential conditions for the Holy Spirit to be able to work in us the transformation of which 2 Corinthians 3:18 speaks: "are changed into the same image from glory to glory."

That is why they become filters through which we should pass every choice of our life: Is this decision in the spirit of self-denial? Am I submitted to Christ, as He was to the Father? Do I behave as a bondservant, as Christ did? Do I find my delight in obedience? Does my attitude reflect Christ?

A practical example: How do I attain longsuffering? To acquire this virtue, we can apply the teaching of the Lord Jesus on non-resistance, living as He lived: in self-denial, in humility, as a bondservant to His teaching and in the fear of the Lord, under the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus taught us: "That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39)

This commandment is not just a moral suggestion, but a call to a life radically different from the one the world teaches. The world says: "Answer back! Defend yourself! Get your own justice!", but Christ says: "Do not resist." To live out this teaching, we must live as He lived — in relationship with Him, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. Self-denial – I consciously and voluntarily give up the values, principles and teachings of the world — those old things that formed me before I knew Christ. In their place, I choose to receive and submit to the teaching of Christ — a teaching that comes from above, from heaven, and that belongs to the new life.

Self-denial means deliberately renouncing what I have been taught by the world: to answer evil with evil, to defend myself, to justify myself. I choose to say: "Lord, I no longer want to live according to the thinking of the world. I receive Your teaching, even if it is hard for my flesh." This choice opens the heart to the work of the Holy Spirit, who teaches me a new way — the way of meekness and patience.

2. Humility – I accept that I need to be taught and corrected. Humility expresses a lowly and submissive heart, which does not exalt itself, does not justify itself and does not claim rights. It makes me teachable. I do not consider myself entitled to react, but I submit to the will of God. Psalm 25 says: "The meek will he guide in judgment: And the meek will he teach his way." (v. 9) Humility helps me not to feel offended, but to see in injustice an opportunity to be transformed after His character, not to defend myself.

3. I make myself a bondservant to the teaching of Christ – I do not bargain with the commandment, but submit to it. I do not look for excuses or justifications. The teaching of Christ becomes my authority. I say: "Lord, if You have said that I should not resist, then I submit. Even if it hurts." This sincere submission allows the Holy Spirit to form in me a patience that is not natural, but supernatural.

4. The fear of the Lord – I obey Him in everything He commands, whatever the cost. The fear of the Lord is not just an emotion, but complete obedience. So did Noah, who did "according to all that God commanded him" (Genesis 6:22), even though he did not understand.

So did Abraham, who was ready to sacrifice Isaac, because he feared God more than loss (Genesis 22:12). By contrast, Saul said: "I feared the people, and obeyed their voice." (1 Samuel 15:24) He chose the fear of men instead of the

fear of God — and lost everything. The fear of the Lord keeps me on the path of obedience, even when others do not understand or judge me.

❌ **Answer: No (wrong) — Explanation:** To live without all things being subordinated to the aim of becoming like Christ means:

- To have a life divided between the world and God, wavering between two kingdoms that cannot coexist in the heart of one who is born again.
- To keep areas "untouched" by the will of Christ — whether in thinking or in behaviour — refusing to hand over to Him full control of your life.
- To keep setting your mind on the things on earth, instead of seeking those which are above, where Christ is (Colossians 3:2), which betrays a heart that has not been fully transformed.
- To live without a clear direction, which contradicts the work of the Holy Spirit, who leads the one born again toward likeness to Christ.

Such a life shows that no real change of priorities has taken place. The Holy Spirit leads the believer daily toward likeness to Christ, and the lack of this direction is a sign that the new life has not truly begun.

A Call to Discipleship - the Road to Likeness to Christ

The new birth is the beginning of the spiritual life and the gateway into the Kingdom of God. It is the most important moment in a person's life — the moment when all things become new. As Scripture says: "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Through the new birth, a person is restored in his relationship with God and receives a new identity: that of a follower—a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. But this identity is not a final point, but a new beginning — the beginning of a process of transformation whose final aim is likeness to Christ in character, in thought and in life.

We were created in the image of God, endowed with soul and spirit, with the gift of thought, of reasoning, of faith and of choice. These gifts are not only privileges, but also responsibilities. God has given them to us so that we may use them actively in the process of spiritual growth to maturity.

We are called to work together with Christ in the forming of our character. He offers us grace, and through the Holy Spirit He gives us prompting and guidance, but He will not do in our place what is our personal responsibility.

God does not force man's will and does not replace free choice with His sovereign intervention. Obedience, discipline and the sincere desire to be transformed are our part in this process of sanctification.

Therefore, discipleship is not a passive process, but an active journey, in

which the grace of God works together with the will of the born-again person. It is a life lived in obedience, as the Lord Jesus lived, with the aim of becoming like Him in character and in deed.

This booklet has presented a few concrete situations, meant to help the reader become aware of the spiritual state he is in. There are, however, many other such situations, which we encourage the reader to examine in a similar way, in order to discern whether the new birth is truly genuine.

The new life in Christ entails a constant evaluation of every aspect of our life in the light of the Word of God. It is an essential practice of the disciple to ask himself sincerely: "Would the Lord Jesus do such a thing?" If the answer is no, then neither can the disciple, who is called to live like his Teacher, continue in that direction. This attitude is a genuine expression of the life of the Kingdom of God, where all things become new and are subject to the rule of Christ.

A Personal Appeal

God is calling you to enrol in His school of discipleship. Do not put off this step. Answer His call with faith and resolve. Ask the Lord to give you a living church, which lives as the Body of Christ, and a spiritual father who will nourish you spiritually, correct you with love and encourage you to grow. Only in such a setting will you be able to grow "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

If there is no living church near you and you need support or guidance, we are available to help you — you can contact us to receive the help you need to begin a truly new life in Christ.

Other materials for spiritual revival:

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

THE NEW BIRTH

THE WEDDING GARMENT

THE CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST

TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

You can order them and you will receive them free of charge!

Listen to audio sermons on spiritual revival at: www.unmodifiedword.com

Sign up and take part in the study of Scripture on the topics:
The New Birth; The Fruit of the Spirit; The New Life of the Kingdom; The Church - The Body of Christ;

This questionnaire is distributed free of charge.

If you believe that this questionnaire can bring about a revival, we ask you to take part in the work of distributing it too.

You can contact us at:
tel. +40747984952

or by email: contact@unmodifiedword.com

If the first man was deceived by Satan and his sin passed upon all, this does not mean that a mistake crept into God's plan. All things happened as was foreseen in this plan made in eternity, which God worked out with great care down to the smallest details.

God begins this work of restoring the image of Christ in man at the moment of the new birth, and He has all power to bring us to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6)

God's plan is not limited to a partial restoration, consisting only in the forgiveness of sins, but provides for the restoration of the image of God in us and for bringing us to the measure of the stature of His Son, as Ephesians 4:11-13 says