

I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

JOHN PHILLIPS



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

I'll Take the High Road

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STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

A little girl was once lost in the great city of London. A helpful policeman tried to find out where she lived but the little girl did not even know her address. So he began to name and describe the great landmarks of London in the hope something would register with the child. The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and St. Paul's, Tower Bridge and Trafalgar Square—place after place he described. But the little girl was not moved by any of these. Presently the policeman mentioned Charing Cross and the great stone cross on the road. At once the little girl dried her tears. She looked up at the policeman and said, "Sir, if you take me to the cross I can find my way home from there!"

The road to heaven begins at the cross, the place where Jesus died to bring us to God. If we come to the cross and put our trust in Christ we can find our way home from there! We begin life anew.

This course is intended to help you measure your progress along the Christian pathway. We trust you will study from chapter to chapter and grow confident that you are indeed taking the High Road.

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters, and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up any Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions. It is important that you read the Bible passages referenced as some questions may be based on the Bible text.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.



BEING BORN TWICE

There lives in Rome, Italy an elderly Indian man (he was a Hindu) and his wife, a native born Italian.

At one time he owned a chain of Jewelry stores in the Hilton and other top-flight hotels in Egypt. He prospered so much that he decided to sell his stores in Egypt, and move to Italy. Once in Italy he opened a store in one of Rome's fashionable hotels. He was getting on in years so he invited his son to join him in Rome. He eventually turned over the store and much of his wealth to his son to manage. Before long he discovered that his son was embezzling funds, using his power of attorney to systematically rob his aged parents. It was only by chance that the father was able to salvage anything for his own personal needs. The behavior of his son caused great sorrow, disappointment and anger.

Then, one day, while watching television, the couple happened to pick up a Bible Broadcast in Italian. They became interested and wrote for a schedule of broadcasts in any or all of the half dozen languages they spoke. Soon afterwards the old gentleman discovered he could obtain an Emmaus Bible Course. He wrote for it, and began to seriously study the Bible. He became increasingly aware of his own need to personally meet the Master and wrote for someone to come and visit him. The man who distributes these courses in Italy went to see this aged Hindu and introduced him to the Lord Jesus.

Soon afterwards the wife also found peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. They were born once again, this time into the family of God. The transforming miracle took place. The two of them then systematically studied God's Word together seeking to grow in grace and increase in the

knowledge of God. Now this aged couple have new treasures to replace their lost material wealth. They have Bibles in three or four languages, Bible study courses, new life in Christ. And, of course, they are praying for the son who did them such wrong.

Does it work? Does it last? This aged couple are living proof that it does. The life changing Son of the living God became the center and sum of their lives. Their experience demonstrates one basic fact about the Christian life; it is a supernatural life imparted and maintained by a miracle of God. The very life of God is transmitted to the believer in Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5). He receives a new nature, a new heart, and a new life.

The Christian life is a supernatural life. It begins with a supernatural experience known as the new birth. It is continued with the supernatural aid of the Holy Spirit of God. It is terminated supernaturally at death by entrance into the life beyond. It is assumed that you who study this course have already experienced the new birth. If not we suggest you write to the source from which you obtained this course for an introductory course such as *Men Who Met the Master* (six chapters). But because this introduction into the Christian life is so essential and so miraculous and because everything else in the Christian life hinges on it, we are going to spend one lesson reviewing what happens when a person has this supernatural encounter with God, which results in regeneration (the new birth).

The Requirement

1. The Requirement Expressed

Jesus was most emphatic about the need for the new birth. He was speaking once to a devout, conscientious, Bible-believing, religious and orthodox Jew named Nicodemus. To this man who, one would have thought, had all the requirements to assure him a place in the kingdom of God, Jesus said: “You must be born again. . . . Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The Lord Jesus did not say to Nicodemus, “You *should* be born again.” Nor did He say, “Would you *like* to be born again?” He said, “You *must* be born again.” It is one of the great imperatives of the Christian faith. This, no doubt, is why the great preacher of a past generation, George Whitfield, when asked by a woman why he always preached “You must be born again,” replied, “Madam, because you **MUST** be born again!”

2. The Requirement Explained

It is not hard to see why this requirement is mandatory. For the sake of illustration imagine the following situation. A lumberjack once lived deep in the royal forest. He carried about with him in his heart a deep desire to see the king and to ask of him a special favor. One day, his great opportunity came, for the king passed right by where the woodcutter was at work. He flung himself at the feet of the king and said, “Your majesty, I am one of your most loyal subjects. I am a law-abiding, honest, moral, clean-living, upright and religious man. I am a good husband to my wife, a good father to my children and a good neighbor and friend. I have never done anyone any harm. I always pay my debts. I am charitable towards the poor and the needy. Therefore, your majesty, I expect that you will now take me back with you to your palace, place me in your family and treat me as one of your own sons!”

You would conclude that the man was a fool. Obviously, to have a right to live in the palace as one of the king’s sons he would need to be born into the king’s family. Yet there are many people who assume a similar attitude towards God. In effect, if not in so many words, they say to God, “Oh God, I do the best I can. I believe the Bible and pray, give to the poor and attend church. I try to live a decent, moral, respectable life. I try to live by the golden rule of loving my neighbor. Therefore I expect that, when I die, you will take me to heaven and treat me as one of your own sons.” To all such pleas God has only one word: “You must be born again.” To have a place in God’s home and right of access to heaven you have to be born into the family of God.

The Reason

A great preacher R. A. Torrey was once talking to a man who thought his own good works were sufficient to get him to heaven. He argued that he lived a much better life than many Christians he knew. Dr. Torrey drew two rectangles in the sawdust on the floor of the tent in which they were standing. “This first rectangle,” he said, “represents the state of the man who has been born twice. We will call it *‘The State of Regeneracy.’* The second one we will call *‘The State of Unregeneracy.’*”

The
State
of
Regeneracy

The
State
of
Unregeneracy

“Now,” he continued, “imagine for a moment that you are in the United States, say in the State of Colorado. You might be on Pike’s Peak 14,110 feet above sea level, you might be living at sea level, you might be in a mine hundreds of feet below sea level, or you might be anywhere in between. But you are still in the State of Colorado.

“Just so with these two ‘States’ I have depicted in the sawdust. A man, in the State of Unregeneracy, might be living high up on the mountains of morality, he might be living an average, fairly decent life, he might be living low down in open sin or he might be living anywhere in between. But he is still in the State of Unregeneracy. He was born into that ‘State’ and there he remains until he is born again.

“On the other hand, a born-again (regenerate) person lives in the State of Regeneracy. He might be living a victorious, fruitful, dynamic and effective Christian life, he might be living an average Christian life from not drawing from God’s resources, he might be living a defeated Christian life or he might be living anywhere in between. But he is still in the State of Regeneracy. For you to say that you are living a moral life better than some Christians you know is beside the point. In which ‘State’ are you living? Have you been born again? Are you in the State of Regeneracy?”

The reason we need to be born again is because we were born all wrong the first time. When God decided to create a race of men He said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1:26).¹ This He did. He created a perfect pair and placed them in a perfect environment. But then our first parents sinned. (We often call this “the Fall.”) When the

¹ References such as this one refer to Bible quotations. If you are not familiar with them, use the index page of your Bible. Numbers refer first to the chapter, then to the verse.

Bible later speaks about Adam's descendants it says, "And Adam . . . begat a son in his own likeness, after his image . . ." (Genesis 5:3). Adam's descendants were born, not in the image and likeness of God but in the image and likeness of fallen Adam. To borrow the expressive language of the Psalmist, we were "shapen in iniquity" (Psalm 51:5).

We are sinners by birth, by choice and by practice. The Bible says, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). God's estimate of the unregenerate heart of man is devastating indeed. He says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord" (Jeremiah 17:9, 10). Sin has wrecked and ruined this world and God will not permit it in heaven. That is why the new birth is essential. Somehow the question of our sin has to be dealt with in a way satisfactory to God. He has to perform a miracle which will transfer us from Adam's family, into which we were born by nature, and place us in His family with a new nature pleasing to him.

Some years ago a medical doctor was dying. He had been an eminent man in his profession but he was not ready to die. A Christian friend was by his bedside trying to explain to him God's way of salvation. He soon made mention of the new birth. At once the doctor pulled himself up on his pillow. "Why, that's exactly what I need," he said. "I need to be born again. I've seen many a baby born and one thing is sure—a baby has no past; it only has a future. How can I be born again?"

The Rule

"How can a man be born when he is old?" asked Nicodemus (John 3:4). The Lord Jesus explained to him that physical laws produced physical birth and spiritual laws produced spiritual birth. He said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).² The actual rule or principle which brings about spiritual birth, birth into God's family, is stated in these words: "He (the Lord Jesus Christ) came unto his own (the Jews) and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them (whether Jew or Gentile) gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13). Let us examine these verses in detail.

1. Three Startling Contradictions

There are three things which being regenerated is *not*. The three negatives of verse thirteen cut away all false hopes. It is:

➤ **Not by Family Influences**

➤ **Not by Fine Intentions**

➤ **Not by Fleshly Impulses**

- a. First, being born again has nothing to do with *family influence*. It is “not of blood.” It is not of human descent. Just because my father was a Christian does not make me one. God has many children but He has no grandchildren. Being born into God’s family is a matter of personal, individual experience. It is not something inherited from Christian parents. The only thing we inherit from our parents is a sinful nature. Nobody has to teach his children to be rebellious, disobedient, self-willed, quarrelsome or dishonest. Such traits are inherited by natural birth.

The Lord Jesus told of a certain rich man who died and went to a place of separation from God. There, in his torment, he could see Abraham afar off. He prayed to him, pleading a relationship to Abraham and hoping that family influence might help him. “Father Abraham!” he cried. The family connections were there all right but they did not help the lost man. “Son, remember” was Abraham’s ultimate reply, throwing the man back upon the

² Jesus used a much misunderstood phrase when speaking to Nicodemus about the new birth. He said, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Many interpretations have been suggested:

- a. Some think it is an allusion to the water of cleansing of Ezekiel 36:25.
- b. Others see in the reference an allusion to physical birth as an illustration of spiritual birth since delivery of a babe is actually effected “out of” water.
- c. Many are convinced it is a reference to Christian baptism. But this ordinance had not yet been instituted by the Lord so reference to it in such a casual way would have meant nothing to Nicodemus. In any case the new birth is not dependent on Christian baptism which is, as Peter puts it, “the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21).
- d. Another likely interpretation is that the Lord was alluding to the work of John the Baptist. Nicodemus was thoroughly familiar with John’s preaching and with the fact that he baptized repentant sinners in water and told them of Another who would baptize in the Spirit. Except you are born of all that John’s water baptism signified (REPENTANCE) and of all that Spirit baptism signifies (REGENERATION) you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

privileges which once had been his and the opportunities he had wasted. For, while being born of believing parents does not automatically confer a place in God's family it does greatly increase opportunity and responsibility.

- b. Being born again has nothing to do with *fine intentions* for it is "not of the will of man" (John 1:13). There are multitudes who think that a place in heaven can be earned by human effort. In fact this false notion is at the root of all the false religious systems on earth. That kind of religion is nothing else but the expression of "the will of man" in spiritual matters while completely ignoring the will of God. God says, "By grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Nobody earns a place in God's family by following some religious scheme. Pilgrimages and penances, fasts and flagellations, rules and resolves cannot earn us salvation. It is "not of the will of man." No amount of human will power and determination can bring about the new birth. It is not a question of turning a new leaf but of taking a new life.

- c. The new birth has nothing to do with *fleshly impulses* or human desire. It is "not of the will of the flesh." The desire to be a child of God does not make a person a child of God any more than the desire to be the son of a millionaire makes a person the son of a millionaire. The "will of the flesh" cannot cancel the "works of the flesh" and the Bible is clear on what these are. The Bible says, "Now the works of the flesh are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance [quarreling], emulations [jealousy], wrath, strife, seditions [factions], heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like . . . they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21). Even when "the flesh" puts on its best behavior it is no better. In one place the apostle Paul lists all his religious assets as a man in the flesh, and then writes them off as a total liability. He calls the whole lot "useless rubbish" (Philippians 3:4-8). Human nature is human nature and can never be anything else no matter how much a person may desire to be different.

The apostle Paul says, "In me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good, I find

not” (Romans 7:18). God says that no flesh shall glory in His presence (1 Corinthians 1:29). The desire to be born again must be planted in the human soul by the Holy Spirit, not generated by some carnal means for some selfish reason.

2. Three Simple Conditions

We have seen three things which being born again is *not*. How it comes about is really very simple but also very sublime. You will notice that in John 1:12 there are three verbs. Putting them in their logical order they are:

- **Believe**
- **Receive**
- **Become**

In a natural birth there is a human agency and a divine agency. When the laws which bring about a physical birth are obeyed the result is a new life brought into being by man’s cooperation with God. Man does his part; God imparts the life. Spiritual birth is like that too. We have a part to perform but God imparts the life. Let us see how it works.

- a. The first thing is to *believe*; specifically we are to “believe on his name.” His name, of course, is Jesus. When the angel was sent to Joseph to announce the virgin birth of Christ he said, “you shall call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The name “Jesus” simply means “Savior.” He saves His people from their sins. Listen to Peter’s words, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). You will remember, of course, that sin is at the root of our problem. On the cross of Calvary the Lord Jesus died to save us from our sins. “For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). We are to believe therefore that He can and will save us personally from our sins.
- b. The second thing is to *receive* Him. It is not sufficient to give mental assent to divine truth. Just as a young woman receives a young man in marriage to be her husband, so we must receive the Lord Jesus personally into our lives to be our Savior. To believe is only one part of the transaction. For example, suppose someone were to offer you a check for \$1,000. You might believe the offer

to be genuine but until you actually put out your hand and receive it that gift would never be yours. You might believe that the Lord Jesus is *the* Savior, you might believe He is the *only* Savior. But have you made Him *your* Savior? Have you acted on your belief and deliberately asked Him to be your Savior from sin? Have you received Him?

- c. When a person believes in the Lord Jesus as the One and only Savior and receives Jesus Christ personally into his life God says to that person, “*become* a child of God.” The miracle takes place, eternal life is bestowed, the Holy Spirit takes up His residence in the human personality and that person is born again, born of God.

The Result

The new birth brings into the human personality a new quality of life. The humblest plant in the forest is greater than the highest mountain on earth because that plant has life, *vegetable* life. The smallest animal in the world is greater than the mightiest tree in the forest because that creature has something greater than vegetable life; it has *animal* life. The weakest child on earth is greater than the cleverest or strongest animal for it has something greater than animal life; it has *human* life. The poorest child of God, the weakest, most feeble Christian is greater than the most brilliant, gifted and influential unregenerate person on earth because that Christian has something greater than natural life; he has *spiritual* life.

Spiritual life is a precious gift from God. It is the life of God Himself planted into the human personality. It is eternal, undying, incorruptible life. But the analogy of a new birth holds true. When a baby is born into a human family, life is there with all its vast potential but the infant itself needs love and care, warmth and food. Similarly when a person is born again that person is a spiritual baby. He needs spiritual nourishment, protection, guidance and help. The Bible puts it this way, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever. . . . As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 1:23; 2:2).

That is why this course has been written. Have you been born again? If so, this course is for you, to help you grow up in your spiritual life and become a mature, useful servant of God as well as an adult son of God. If you are not born again you can accept God’s conditions right now—believe

that Jesus took your place and died for you, receive the risen Lord Jesus as your very own Savior from sin and become a child of God.

I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

EXAM BOOKLET AK '11 (2 UNITS) ITHR

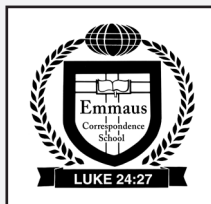
STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter, review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue C. yellow
B. green D. orange

 B

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THESE EXAM PAGES

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CHAPTER 1 EXAM

BEING BORN TWICE

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.

Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. The Lord Jesus explained the need for being born again to a person who was
 - A. a complete atheist
 - B. very religious and Bible believing
 - C. inclined to be irreligious
 - D. ignorant of the Bible

2. In explaining the new birth Jesus said we
 - A. **can** be born again
 - B. **should** be born again
 - C. **must** be born again
 - D. **cannot** be born again

3. A person can be placed in God's family
 - A. by living a decent life
 - B. by observing religious rituals
 - C. only by doing all the above
 - D. only by being born into that family

4. If a person is in the "State of Unregeneracy" he
 - A. has not been saved
 - B. will go to heaven
 - C. will be OK if he lives morally
 - D. has no hope for the future

5. An experience of the new birth is essential for getting to heaven because
 - A. we were born in sin
 - B. we are sinners by practice and by choice
 - C. no sin will be allowed in heaven
 - D. of all the above reasons

- 6. A man can be sure of a place in God’s family only if he has
 - A. been supernaturally born into that family
 - B. been born of Christian parents
 - C. been baptized in infancy
 - D. complete victory over every sinful desire_____

- 7. All false religions have which of the following wrong teaching in common? The teaching that
 - A. salvation can be earned by human merit
 - B. man is unable to do anything to save himself
 - C. there is no hell
 - D. all religions are equally effective in securing God’s favor_____

- 8. To “believe on his name” really means to specifically believe that
 - A. Jesus can and will save me from my sin
 - B. Jesus is coming again
 - C. the name of Jesus is equal with the name of Moses
 - D. Jesus was a historical figure_____

- 9. Many people say that they “believe.” For the new birth, it is important to go a step further than that and actually
 - A. be confirmed
 - B. receive the Lord Jesus into my life
 - C. go on a pilgrimage
 - D. fast for two weeks every year_____

- 10. A person who is born again
 - A. has the highest possible kind of life
 - B. has no further spiritual needs
 - C. has no real assurance that he is in the kingdom of God
 - D. has achieved this status by his own good works_____

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Explain how and when you were born into God’s family.
