



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Stepping Stones of the New Birth
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 1:3-5

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"Born again" wasn't a term invented by the popular press or religious fundamentalists. It was something Jesus told Nicodemus *must* happen for anyone to enter heaven (see John 3:3). Peter certainly heard that term from Jesus and speaks of it here (as well as in 1 Peter 1:23). It's a term synonymous with being saved and having eternal life. What does this new birth provide? In a word—solidity! Coming to Christ brings hope, inheritance, and power.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. A birth is one of the most exciting things to be a part of
 1. Pain and anguish
 2. The joy eclipses that
 3. Great being a grandparent
- B. The first steps of a child are also pretty significant
- C. When we are born again, we take spiritual steps—stepping stones
 1. Hope
 2. Inheritance
 3. Power

II. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)

- A. Born again
 1. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again (see John 3:7)
 2. The term has become cliché
 3. Skip's buddy Dino introduced Skip to the phrase *born again*
 4. A better description would be to be born from above; a transformation that occurs on the inside
- B. Why a new birth?
 1. A step toward hope
 - a. Peter praises God for His plan in saving people which includes:
 - i. A changed life on earth
 - ii. An inheritance in heaven
 - iii. Security until we get there
 - b. Christians have hope; unbelievers don't (see Ephesians 2:12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - i. "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation" —Henry David Thoreau

- ii. When you're young you start asking, "What is the purpose of life?"
 - iii. See this through the eyes of Peter, a fisherman
 - iv. Routine, monotony, every single day, the same thing
 - v. Jesus walked into Peter's life and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)
 - vi. Hope burned in Peter's heart; life wasn't monotonous anymore
 - vii. Even wealthy, powerful people suffer from boredom, hopelessness
 - viii. King Solomon wrote of vanity (see Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)
 - ix. When Jesus died, hope died in Peter's life (see Luke 24:21)
 - x. At the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter's hope was reborn (see I Peter 1:3)
 - xi. That meant all His promises were true (see John 5:24, John 11:25, John 14:6, and John 14:19)
2. Some may ask, "How do we really know Jesus rose from the dead?"
- a. At Easter time, National Geographic Channel asks that question
 - b. Three evidences:
 - i. Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection before it ever happened
 - ii. Individual and group eyewitness accounts
 - iii. The changed lives of the followers of Christ
 - c. Jewish historian Josephus reported that his followers saw Him alive
 - d. "For me the evidence is conclusive" —Sir Edward Clark, British Lawyer
 - e. Atheist Frank Morison set out to prove the resurrection false and ended up being converted
 - f. "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best-attested to event of the ancient world" atheist, now strong believer, —Lee Strobel
- III. The new birth is a step toward inheritance (v. 4)
- A. Jesus came to the earth and died, bequeathing heaven to us; it's our inheritance
 - B. He rose from the dead and we became joint-heirs with Him (see Romans 8:17)
 - C. It's not just about hope now, it's lasting hope, after we die (see I Corinthians 15)
 - D. Your best life is not now
 - E. All of these earthly things will be dissolved (see 2 Peter 3:11-14)
 - F. Be spiritually-minded people, not materialistic people
 - G. Heaven was not just a destination for Peter, it was his motivation
 - H. When Jesus spoke of eternity, he spoke about real life (see Matthew 6:19-24)
 - I. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- IV. The new birth is a step toward power (v. 5)
- A. Kept secure—safeguarded by God
 - B. Our world is increasingly unsafe
 - 1. Each generation says this
 - 2. A woman sensed this and bought a handgun—carried it around in her purse, loaded
 - C. God will keep you, but you have to want to be kept (see Jude 24)
 - D. You are kept for salvation
 - E. Three different ways the New Testament speaks of salvation
 - 1. Past: You have been saved by faith (see Romans 10:9)

2. Present: You are being saved right now—sanctification
3. Future: You will be saved from the very presence of sin

V. Closing

- A. This new birth is your only hope for new life
- B. Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7)
- C. If you ever want to see heaven, you must be born again
- D. By God's abundant mercy we have been born again
- E. His mercies are new every morning (see Lamentations 3:22-23)
- F. Abraham Lincoln and the rebellious Southerners who returned, "Like they had never been away"

Publications Referenced: *National Geographic Channel*, *Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen,

Figures Referenced: Henry David Thoreau, Josephus, Sir Edward Clark, Frank Morison, Lee Strobel, Abraham Lincoln

Cross references: Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, Lamentations 3:22-23, Matthew 4:19, Matthew 6:19-24, Luke 24:21, John 3:7, John 5:24, John 11:25, John 14:6, John 14:19, Romans 8:17, Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Ephesians 2:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Peter 3:11-14

Topic: Born Again

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