

ARE YOU BORN AGAIN?

You know you were born, but can you prove it? Fifty million Americans can't prove they were born because their birth certificates were never filed, according to the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Washington. In some cases the parents or doctor forgot to file a certificate; in other instances the birth records were destroyed by fire, flood, or other disasters.

The person who can't prove he was born may run into difficulty when he applies for a passport, pension, driving permit, marriage license, or a job. Uncle Sam won't take his word for it - he must have written proof of his birth!

A man applied for a job at a jet airplane factory. He was qualified, except for one thing - no birth certificate to prove his American citizenship. While he spent weeks seeking the necessary information, another man who could prove he was born in the U. S. was given the position.

An Arkansas man claimed he was sixty five so retired from work. But his pension was delayed until acceptable proof of the date of his birth could be secured. No certificate had been filed. At last the Census Bureau came to his aid for his name was listed in the 1900 census record. This was sufficient proof and he received his pension.

A South Dakota family visited relatives in Denmark. When they returned to the United States, Uncle Sam denied them entrance until they could prove that their two sons were American citizens. No birth certificates were filed. The family spent several anxious weeks in quarantine before the South Dakota health officer obtained acceptable proof of the son's births.

It is a serious matter if you cannot prove you were born, but it is even more serious not to be able to prove you are born again!

"Are you saved? ... Are you born again?" someone asks.

"I hope so ... I'm trying to be ... I don't know for sure ..."

These dubious answers are not enough. Can you prove you are saved? Do you know you are born again? This matter of your eternal soul's salvation is not a "hope-so" or "guess-so" fancy! It is based on divine certainties! The Bible says, "You that believe on the name of the Son of God ... may know that ye have eternal life ..." (I John 5:13).

You may know by the Spirit's witness within. "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and He in us, because he hath given us of His Spirit" (I John 4:13). "The Spirit ... beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

You may know by the change in your life. "Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (I John 2:3). "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Martin Luther, in one of his conflicts with the devil, was asked by the archenemy if he felt his sins were forgiven. "No," said the great reformer, "I don't feel that they are forgiven, but I know they are, because God says so in His Word!"

Faith alone is the basis of salvation. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

The moment you confess your sins and accept Christ as the Substitute for your sins, you are "born again." For "as many as received him, to them gave he 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 ... but of God" (John 1:12-13).

Parents at times may fail to record the birth of their children, but God never does! The names of each one of His children are "written in heaven" (Luke 10:20) on "the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

Is your name written there? If it isn't, you will be denied entrance to the Holy City. For, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God ... Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:5, 7).

Don't take any chances! Be sure of your soul's salvation! Accept Christ as your personal Saviour today!