

# Our New Birth Must Be Validated By Our Actions 1 John 2:28-29

## BACKGROUND

During this time false teachers who he calls antichrists, that were infecting the church with what is known as Gnosticism.

And it's important to understand what they were teaching, because that is what John was writing about. These false teachers were saying two things 1. That Jesus had not come of the Flesh. (No full union between the eternal non-physical son of God and the Man Jesus Christ.) Pretty much what this means is that the flesh didn't matter. 2. That you could be righteous and not practice righteousness. They separated being from doing. YOLO- do whatever, don't hurt anyone else, they were already righteous

**Verse 28**, when John says "Abide in him" he is basically saying walk in the truth, SO by walking in the truth this allows us to not be ashamed of our life in Christ, but rather that we can have confidence in our actions even now.

**Verse 29**, Notice it says "Has been born of him" not will be born of him.

- This would imply that our salvation is based on works, BUT Ephesians 2: tells us that it is by GRACE through FAITH that we are saved.
- Not by works, so we don't practice righteousness to be born again, To have this new life in Christ, but we practice righteousness BECAUSE we have been born again.

EXAMPLE: we don't go to church every Sunday to display an image, to make us look like good people; we do these things because what Christ has done for us.

A cool way to break it down is by looking at it from a cause and effect point of view.

Effect = Righteous behavior. And the Cause = being truly born again. We practice this righteous behavior, for our love of Christ. We don't do the things we used to whether it be cursing, drinking, stealing, lying, because we have been TRANSFORMED by Christ. For example, when I accepted Christ into my life, something was different. Things changed. There are things that I tried to change to be a better person. EXAMPLE: cursing. Once I built my foundation on Christ and my motivation wasn't on trying to make myself a better person, everything changed. It's like if you are trying to cut down a tree and you hack at branches and twigs, that tree won't fall down until you alter its foundation. It will fall and be CHANGED

But with this said, THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO BE PERFECT Chapter 2:1 says that if we sin WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE in Jesus Christ! Nathan described it as Jesus pleading our case to God.

So John isn't saying that because we have been born again that we will be sinless but rather those truly born again have the Heavenly Father's righteous nature. Verse 29 is saying that there will be evidence of our new birth. It's action that confirms we have been changed. If we say that we are changed but don't change then how are we new?

FOR EXAMPLE If I make the commitment and say that I am a body builder, but you never see me in the gym, you never see me training and all I do is eat cake all day, and there is no evidence of me actually being a body builder, does that really make me one?

**Our new birth must be validated by our actions.**

John Piper said, "Confirm your being, by doing."

So if you're struggling with something and you can't seem to fix it, you've gotta ask yourself am I doing this to be a better person or am I doing this because of my love for God.

Maybe you're struggling with a sinful relationship, or lust, or even some addiction.

Just know that you have to put your faith in the righteous God to give you righteous actions, then you will gain the confidence to overcome it.

So here's what I want you to remember, **our new birth must be validated by our actions.**

Some things that truly helped me with this was actually sitting down and reading my Bible every day. Once you get into Gods Word, your life will start to change.

Also, make sure you are hanging around the right people, people that will lift you up and help you through these things. And the BCM is a great example of this. If you are struggling with something right now, just talk to him, find someone else to talk with and help you through this.