

# The Word of Life Messenger

*“Holding forth the word of life” Phil. 2:16*

Vol. 60

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No. 5

## **SPIRITUAL BIRTH MARKS**

Marks are ways we have of identifying certain highways, or canned goods, or automobiles, cattle, horses, buildings and most any thing one might name.

The word “marks,” in Galatians 6:17, comes from the (Greek) word “stigma.” It means, to brand, like the western horses wear the brand of the ranch they were born on. Or it may mean to puncture, like the volunteer slave in the Old Testament had a hole punctured in his ear by an awl (Exodus 21:6). That was the mark of slavery forever.

So God’s children have many marks which identify them as being born of the Spirit of God.

What have Bible writers believed about the sinfulness of man? What one believes for salvation? As to what one suffers? What is the sign to the world? What is the mark to the Christian?

**Mark No. 1 - DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOUR SINFULNESS?.**

1. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jer. 17:9)

2. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may he also do good, that are accustomed to do evil” (Jer. 12:23).

3. “You hath He quickened, who were dead to trespasses and sins,” (Eph. 2:1). Do you believe a poor sinner is spiritually dead? If you do not, then you do not believe the Bible.

4. “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Ps. 61:5).

5. “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies” (Ps. 58:3). Man is estranged from birth.

6. Even after one is saved, we continue to sin: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). “If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:10).

Do you believe these scriptures are a true picture of yourself? Then that is a true BIRTH MARK if you do.

**Mark No. 2 - WHAT ONE BELIEVES FOR SALVATION:**

“Ye must be born again,” said Jesus (John 3:3, 5, 7). One gets into the physical realm by the natural birth, and one gets into the spiritual realm by the birth from above. “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (1 John 5:1).

Counted righteous without working (Rom. 4:5). “But to him that worketh not,” says the Lord.

No credit to yourself, “And that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

**“THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS SALVATION. . .”** (Tit. 2:11). One does not have to run the Lord down for salvation. “It is the GIFT OF GOD” (Eph. 2:8).

The Grace that saves a sinner is: Jesus suffering death in the place of the sinner (Heb. 2:9) and being raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Do you believe Christ died for all of your sins: for all iniquity? If He could die for one of your sins, could he not die for ALL of your sins? What a blessed truth!

“He that believeth on ME, hath everlasting life” (Jno. 6:47). That means the believer, now, has nonending life. Do you have these spiritual BIRTH MARKS?

**Mark No. 3 - WHAT ONE SUFFERS:**

A child of God is sure to suffer at the hand of the world. “Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions” (Tim. 3:12). The only one who can live godly in Christ, is a godly person. Are you in Christ?

**THE CHILD OF GOD MAY SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF THE DEVIL, AS DID JOB.** The devil killed his children, destroyed his property, and smote him with sore boils. God permitted the devil to cause Job to suffer all these things. If Satan should destroy all that you have, would you say as did Job, “The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.” If all were taken that you have dishonored God with, would you have anything left? Read the first and second chapters of Job,

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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# LORD, WHO IS LIKE UNTO THEE

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(Psalms 35:10)

Have you ever stopped to consider what a great God we have? He is great in His attributes. His power is unsurpassed and unlimited. His wisdom is perfect and complete. There is not a word on my tongue, nor a thought on my mind that He does not know. There is not a thing that I do that He does not know or anticipate. His presence is all-encompassing. There is not a place I can go to escape His presence or as a believer be separated from His love. His holiness is perfect; there is no sin or imperfection in Him. And yet the ways of God are so wonderful that we are often surprised by the things that He does. To us who are sinners, His condescension is so great, and His mercy so free, His

power so vast, and His righteousness so glorious, that when we see them in His dealings with us or those around us we are moved to exclaim "Lord, who is like unto thee?" Truly, our God has no equal. He is infinitely superior to all others. His ways are as high above our ways as the heavens are above the earth. He does wondrous things. He saves guilty sinners and clothes them in the righteousness of His own dear Son. He even invites us to "Call upon me, and I will show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." What we can expect from no other source, we can expect from our God. When no one else can help us He can deliver us with ease. His Word is given, His

mind is unchangeable. His ways are at times a mystery to us, but mercy and truth have their resting place in Him. And this is abundantly true in His mercy, pity, power, compassion, forbearance, holiness and love which were all displayed on Calvary's cross. Here Christ bore our sins, dying the innocent in the place of the guilty, that God by His grace could clothe us in Christ's righteousness. Here then is a great work which only God could do; marvelous grace that He would do it.

Amazing love! How can it be  
That thou O God should die for me?

~ Larry Windham

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## SPIRITUAL BIRTH MARKS

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(Continued from Page 1)

to get the full explanation of how a saint may suffer at the hands of Satan, only by God's permissive will.

**THE CHILD OF GOD MAY SUFFER CHASTISEMENT FROM THE LORD:** "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6). Correction from the Lord is a Birth Mark Brand.

**Mark No. 4 - MARK OF OUR SPIRITUAL BIRTH TO ALL MEN:**

"By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE one to another" (Jno. 13:35). If people believe that the death of Christ on the cross was a substitutionary (Christ in the sinners place) death, His burial and resurrection from the dead, is God's way of saving every sinner who believes "ON THE

SON," and that means CHRIST IS ENOUGH without your good works added to what Christ has done, then all who believe that are brethren in Christ. When a child of God learns that some one else believes that, it produces a love for that person, that is different from the love for an unbeliever. One may be a saint and not be very loving to other saints. But the proof to all men that one is a disciple, is blurred by being a soured-on-the-world type of person, that makes a bad impression on the cause of Christ our Saviour, also on our sincerity and influence.

**Mark No. 5 - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BROTHERN** (Jno. 3:14).

This should be a searching question in every professed Christian's

life: Do I truly love other children of God? You may not love some of their ways, but do love them in spite of their ways? Give yourself a close examination now. This is one of the BIRTH MARK signs to yourself, as to whether you are really saved.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 Jno 5:13). Do you know that you are saved? That is a sure BIRTH MARK (Brand) evidence to you: To KNOW that you are saved. That shows you believe what God says about the believer (John 3:36). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life."

~ B. A. Wilson

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# PEACE

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Man's great desire is to have peace, to be at rest, to have tranquility of soul, to be satisfied, to be at peace with God, his fellow man and with himself. You doubtless say, "Yes, preacher, you are right, that's what I want." If you are lost, if you are only a once-born man, if you are an alien-sinner, your chief concern, or should be, is to have peace with God. This happy condition is impossible to man. That is, he cannot make his peace with God. Often lost people are urged to "make your peace with God," but peace does not come that way.

"For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable to his sight" (Col. 1:19-22). Note this revealing statement "Having made peace through the blood of His cross." Man does not make peace with God. God makes peace for man. God makes peace by establishing peace between Himself and man, and the man who learns this has peace in his heart. "Being justified by faith we have peace" (Romans 5:1).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of

reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Study the above passage, it is worth it, as our eternal destiny depends on our learning what God has done for us. Take a look at this wonderful gracious provision God has made. Here is a person. He realizes he is alienated from the life of God by his wicked works, and also by nature (child of

wrath by nature). What can he do? Nothing, except to face his certain doom to hell so far as his own merit is concerned. But God, who alone can do, has done something. "Having made peace through the blood of His cross." If you are this lost sinner, look to Jesus dying on the cross.

This is God's way of making peace for the sinner, of establishing peaceful relationship between Himself and the sinner, and giving the sinner peace in his heart when he believes it. The sinner deserves to go to hell; God's justice demands it, Jesus Christ, the just and Holy One, met the demands of God's justice and suffered the sinner's hell-desert for him and was raised from the grave.

~ E. R. Henderson

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## THE WORK OF GOD

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"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). The work of God has to do with a merciful God doing something for the lost sinner.

I believe every lost person believes he must do something to be saved. In fact much of the religious world teaches man that he must do something in order to go to heaven. The Philippian jailor asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas did not tell him something to do, but they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). The work of God is complete in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ who died in our place on the cross of Calvary, was buried, and rose again.

We receive this new life from above when we believe in Him, "whom to know is life eternal." "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing or regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). "Who gave himself to us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

~ Gladwin Carpenter

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