

TWO BIRTHS AND TWO DEATHS

The Bible makes it clear that there are two births and two deaths that human beings experience. This is significant and needs to be understood by all – by followers of Christ and, more importantly, by those who have not yet chosen that path.

Two Births

The **first birth** you experience is fairly obvious. It occurred when your biological mother gave birth to you, and you entered this physical world. This is your physical birth about which you were not given a choice. It was entirely based on the decisions and actions of someone else, your biological parents.

A **second birth** is identified in scripture. Jesus had a conversation with a Jewish leader by the name of Nicodemus who was amazed by the miracles Jesus performed and wanted to know more about the kingdom of God (**John 3:1-15**). Jesus surprised Nicodemus with the statement, “no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is *born again*. How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit*” (**John 3:3-6**) (*emphasis added*).

Though all human beings until the time of their physical death are alive in the *flesh* from their first birth, all are dead *spiritually* in their sins and trespasses (**Ephesians 2:1-2**). We were born physically alive but were already spiritually dead because of sin, sin that began with the first humans and has been reality for everyone since. The article on [Sin](#) should be reviewed as it provides details on this.

Unless you encounter the second or spiritual birth, **Rebirth**, called the **Plan of Salvation**, you will remain spiritually dead and will not enter God’s kingdom. Whereas you had no say in your first birth, you are totally in control about your second one. The decision is entirely up to you. If you are not sure whether you have experienced the second birth, please go to [Finding True Life](#).

Two Deaths

Just as there are two births, there are two deaths. The **first death** occurs when you die physically, something that will happen eventually to every human being. If you have been born again through spiritual birth in Jesus Christ, you will not experience further death. Though your physical body returns to the dust (**Ecclesiastes 3:20**), your spirit and soul (the other two parts of your being), will be alive in the presence of God immediately, just as Jesus promised to the repentant thief on the cross that was crucified beside him (**Luke 23:39-43**).

If you have *not* been born again spiritually and you die physically, you will experience the **second death**. Ultimately, you will stand before the judgment seat of God, as everyone will. If you refused **God's Plan of Salvation** through Jesus Christ, the second death will be unavoidable. If you have been born again and received new spiritual life in Jesus Christ, you will not experience the second death.

Here is the scene as described in the book of Revelation, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the **second death**. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:11-15**) (**emphasis added**).

Closing Thoughts

If you have been born twice, you will only die once (physically) and you will experience the glorious reality of the presence of God for eternity.

If you were only born once, you will die twice and experience a woeful reality separated from the presence of God for eternity.

All choices we make in life have consequences, good and bad. The choice to be born again and receive new spiritual life is the most important choice you can ever make! If you have not made that choice, please go to **Finding True Life** to learn more.

Here are some additional resources you may find helpful:

[Two Births and Two Deaths \(discerningtruth.org\)](http://discerningtruth.org)

[What is the second death? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

[5 Bible verses about The Second Death \(knowing-jesus.com\)](http://knowing-jesus.com)
