

Nicodemus had never heard such doctrine as this before, and he could not understand it. Therefore our Lord explained it more at large,—and still repeatedly and solemnly assured him, that if he should live and die a stranger to this great change, he could not possibly be saved.

And this is true of every one. It is the case with me. My heart and my life must be changed by God's Spirit, or I have only the name of Christian, which will profit me nothing. I too must be born again.

But how may I know, whether I am born again? I will tell you.

If you are born again, you have begun to pray from the heart; before, you prayed only with your lips,—this indeed was only the form of prayer. God does not accept any prayer which does not arise from the heart.

If you are born again,—you will delight to read the Scriptures. You will behold wondrous things in God's holy word. It will be a light to your feet, and a lamp to your path. You will say from your own experience, It is sweeter also than honey, or the droppings of the honey-comb.

If you are born again,—you will fear to sin against God. You will be sincerely concerned to do every thing which is pleasing in his sight. David said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against God." And you will do so too.

If you are born again,—you will love all the people of God. "By this," said the Lord Jesus, "shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one toward another." "We know," said John, "that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."

If you are born again,—you will desire God's favour more than anything else. Whilst many all around you are inquiring after worldly good, you will say, "Lord! lift thou upon me the light of thy countenance; this shall put gladness into my heart. Thy