

04-WHEN WERE YOU BORN AGAIN?

Salvation is obtained through faith. The people who were saved before the crucifixion did not need to exercise any more faith to believe He would die than we exercise by believing He has died.

Every human being is a part of God's creation. Being a member of God's creation, however, does not make a person a member of God's Family. In order to become a child of God, you must be born into the Family of God. Please make sure you are one of God's children. Have you ever gone to God in prayer and asked God to forgive you of the sins you have committed? Have you asked that the payment Christ provided on the cross pay for the sin debt you owe? Have you made your appeal through saving faith, that is, confessing to God there is nothing you can do to earn eternal life? " ⁸ *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*" 2 Timothy 1:8-12 (New American Standard Bible)

Please consider that if a person's appeal to God is through the sacrifice of Christ plus good works after salvation or the sacrifice of Christ plus water baptism or church membership, they are not putting complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior. They are saying that between what Christ did on the cross and what they will do by being baptized or by joining a church, they will be saved. God tells us in the book of Ephesians however:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not from yourselves, for it is the gift of God; not as the outcome of works lest anyone may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 – Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition).