

Being Born Again

When I think about the concept of being born again (the churchy language about accepting Jesus into your heart and life, at a specific moment, in a NEW way) I think about how the sensation of NEWness and often characterizes that experience. Afterwards, it is very easy to get into a routine which does not appear different than one appeared before one was “born again.” I feel that there is a lot of emphasis put on the moments of NEWness and being born again, while a calculated disregard for how in the world one should live after being born again (That’s the hardest part!). After one is born *again*, one must live *again*.

By live again, I mean, recognizing NEWly one’s position as a sociopolitical actor, a member of a global family of faith, and as a citizen whose lifestyle and actions on this planet affect others in positive or negative ways. If we are made NEW, as the result of being born again, let’s live as NEW people as well, making sure that our actions affect our neighbors (near and far) in positive ways.

It is a mixed reaction what I have when I think about this NEWness phenomenon. I am excited for NEW chances, and the NEW year, but want to get rid of the angst of routine. This angst comes out of my desire to be in right relationship with the spiritual, physical, and inner world, and I don’t like it when I am just in a routine, and not appreciating the full strength of each moment. This year, to resolve this tension, I am using this quote. “And with each breath, I am born again NEW.”

It puts a new twist on things. I can see the NEWness all around me, over and over again, if I consciously choose to. I choose to do this, by

trying to live a life that positively shares love with the earth, my neighbors, and society. The quote also invites me to see how a continual cycle of daily life can always retain its beauty and the relationship between being born again and living again.



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