

# Verily

No. 180

## Introduction.

- I. There are many interesting words in the Bible. Perhaps one of the most interesting is the word “Verily.”
- II. This word meaning “beyond question,” “truly,” “so be it” is used over and over again in the Bible to emphasize some of the great truths of God.

### I. **The Pre-existence of Christ** - The word is used to emphasize the pre-existence of Christ. (Jn. 8:58).

- A. Jesus exclaimed to the Jews that He existed before Abraham who had lived nearly 2,000 years before.
- B. As we study the scriptures we find that Jesus did not begin His existence in Bethlehem of Judea as most people think. Christ has existed from all eternity!
  1. The scriptures exclaim, before the incarnation of Christ, that Jesus was with God from the beginning and God created all things through Him. (Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 17:5; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:1, 2).

2. 1 John 1:2.

### II. **God ‘s Providence Over His Children** - The word “verily” is used to emphasize God’s providence over His children.

#### A. **David** declared. (Psa. 37:3).

1. David assured us that if we do good that God will provide for our needs.
2. Later he said in the same chapter. (Psa. 37:25).

#### B. **Jesus** echoed these words in Matthew the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter when He looked out on the frustrated multitude and said. (Matt. 6:25, 26, 33).

#### C. Paul said. (Rom. 8:32; Phil. 4:19).

1. Some years ago Dr. Raymond Wheeler, a medical missionary in Africa, told a thrilling story of God’s providence that I would like to share with you. The Wheeler’s made a visit to some of the missions south of them and on the way home, down a very muddy road, the **valve cover** on their Volkswagen fell off. Brother Wheeler replace this and drove on a few miles before stopping to inspect the motor to be sure there was no oil leak. He found the **crankcase** completely empty and there were 200 miles from the nearest service station. The first man who came along had a gallon of motor oil he wanted to sell because he needed the money. They purchased the oil and proceeded toward home. A few miles later they **ran over a rock which punctured the gasoline tank**. Brother Wheeler got out and began working frantically to get the tank loose so he could stop the leak. While he was working a truck came up slowly in the mud and one of the men said, “Stop the truck where we can help them” The driver said, “No, we are in a hurry.” The other man said, “But that is Dr. Wheeler from the Chimala Hospital. We must help him.” They were 325 miles from home in a strange land yet recognized. The man stopped and asked what the trouble was. Upon hearing that he had a hole in the gasoline tank, one of the men pulled out a tube of liquid solder from his pocket and helped brother Wheeler fix the tank. Brother Wheeler said he was sure that was not another tube of liquid solder for 300 miles around them and probably not more than a dozen people in the area had heard of it.

2. Did all this happen by mere chance? Perhaps. It is far more reasonable, however, to believe that God was taking care of His children.

III. **Proper Way To Fast** - The word “verily” is used to emphasize the proper way to fast.

**MAT 6:16 "And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 17 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face 18 so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.**

- A. Jesus said that when the hypocrites fasted that they would look very sad and disfigure their faces to be seen by men.
  1. Jesus said, “Verily, I say unto you, they have received their reward” - the praise of men.
  2. In contrast to the hypocrites, Jesus taught that when we fast that we should anoint our heads and wash our faces that our fasting be seen of God and not of men. (Matt. 6:16-18).
- B. **The New Testament does not command Christians to fast**, but it teaches us to how to fast and it teaches that fasting is proper and good if done in the right way.
  1. The early Christians often fasted. In Acts the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter we learn that the brothers at Antioch fasted and prayed before they sent Paul and Barnabas out on the first missionary journey.
  2. Later we read Paul and those with him fasted and prayed that the elders and Christians in various congregations would be faithful and fully dedicated to the Lord. (Acts 14:23).
- C. **Fasting is a time** when a man or woman can get their minds off the physical things of life and solely put them on God and spiritual things.
  1. We would probably all be better off spiritually if we spend some time fasting, especially if that time was devoted to prayer. If it helped Jesus, Paul and others, I am sure it would be of even more help to us.
  2. It should be pointed out, however, that while it is proper for a Christian to fast that this should not be bound on children and others. Fasting is a voluntary act for a definite purpose, not something to be bound or forced on someone else.

IV. **Thinking Oneself To Be Right Does Not Make One Right** - The word “verily” is used to teach that thinking oneself to be right does not make one right.

- A. **Paul** said. (Acts 26:9).
  1. For a long time Paul sincerely thought he was doing the will of God by having Christians delivered to prison and even put to death.
  2. Later he discovered he had been sincerely wrong and stood condemned before God as the chief of sinners. (1 Tim. 1:15).

B. **Paul** then used the word “verily” to emphatically stress that we cannot rely on feelings as our guide in religion.

1. Feeling can be wrong.

2. We must search the scriptures to make sure our feeling are founded on truth. Only those who follow the truth of God shall be saved. (Isa. 55:8,9; Prov. 14:12; Jn. 8:32).

V. **Necessity Of The New Birth** - The word “verily” is used to emphasize the necessity of the new birth.

A. Once **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and said. (Jn. 3:1-5).

B. Jesus affirmed the new birth man must experience is a spiritual birth rather than a physical birth.

1. Someone might ask, “**What does it mean to be born of the water and the Spirit?**” Does it mean one must experience two separate births?” Not at all.

2. It will help us to understand the new birth if we will think a moment of what is involved in a physical birth. Two things are necessary for a physical birth. There must be a conception and a delivery. Without a conception and a delivery you cannot have a physical birth.

3. **This is also true of the new birth.** There must be a conception and a delivery.

a. The part of the Holy Spirit in the new birth corresponds to the conception in a physical birth.

1) The Holy Spirit, through the word of God, produced “faith” or “spiritual life” in the heart of a sinner. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 4:15; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23).

2) These scriptures indicate that the Holy Spirit converts through the word of God. The Holy Spirit does not work in some strange, mysterious way on the heart to bring about a miraculous inward change. This thought, that some have advanced, is completely foreign to the New Testament.

b. The **part of the water** in conversion corresponds to the delivery of a physical birth. Just as it is necessary for a baby to be delivered to have life, it is necessary for one to be delivered out of the water to become a new creature in Christ.

1) To prove that this is what Jesus meant by the new birth I would like for us to briefly consider each of the cases of conversion recorded in the book of Acts. (Acts 2:4, 14, 37,38, 41; 8:12, 13; 8:35-38; 10:48; 16:14, 15; 16:30-33; 18:8; 22:16).

2) From each of these examples we find that those who received the gospel or the word of the Holy Spirit were baptized as Jesus commanded.

c. It should also be emphasized that in a **physical birth** one cannot be born of that which is smaller than himself. I have seen a lot of babies, as you have, but I have never seen a baby bigger than its mother. So it is with the new birth. One cannot be born of something smaller than himself. Jesus was teaching we must be immersed. Sprinkling or pouring do not fit the figure of the birth.

- 1) This also agrees with the meaning of the Greek word “baptizo” translated “baptize.” Greek scholars tell us this word means “to dip, immerse, to submerge.” It does not mean to sprinkle or pour.
- 2) Furthermore, it should be emphasized that the examples of the baptisms we have in the New Testament show that baptism was always by immersion. (Matt. 3:16; Jn. 3:23; Acts 8:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).

## **Conclusion.**

### **I. What does all of this mean to us?**

- A. It means we must be born again to be saved. (Jn. 3:5).
- B. Those who do not let the word of God lead them to a new life shall have no part with God.

II. We are now going to sing the hymn of invitation. If you have not been born of water and Spirit, we urge you to come as we stand and sing.