

efforts that make us begotten of God.

While guiding and instructing an unsaved person in the matter of personal salvation, it is well to ask the person to kneel if it is convenient and can be done in comfort. There are several reasons for this. It is scriptural. Throughout the Scripture, people knelt when approaching and petitioning the Lord. Jesus and Paul knelt in private and in public. Throughout church history both saved and unsaved have knelt when seeking help from the Lord.

Kneeling helps to make receiving Christ as Savior a definite experience on the part of the seeker and brings a person beyond the state of Bible knowledge, which does not save or regenerate. It is one thing to believe about Christ, and it is a very different matter to believe on Christ and receive Him as one's personal Savior.

Unless the Holy Spirit impresses me with some other scripture, I generally turn first to *John 1:12* when guiding and helping a person in the matter of personal salvation. There we read: "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*"

Read this verse and then have the seeker read it aloud. There are

two things in this verse that the unsaved must do: namely, believe and receive. Most often when you ask a seeker if he or she believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that Jesus is the Son of God, the answer is "yes."

Children and young people brought up in Christian homes and churches have little or no difficulty in believing about Christ; but in order to be saved, they must receive Christ and believe on Christ. Here they, as well as older people, have difficulty and need guidance and instruction.

How does a person on earth receive Jesus Christ, who is in heaven? Or as Nicodemus asked Jesus, "*How can a man be born when he is old?*" Jesus answered, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*" (*John 3:6*) So the question is: how can a person be born of the Spirit?

Turning back to the first chapter in John's gospel and reading verses 13 and 14, we find the answer to how a person receives Christ; and this should be made clear and plain to the seeker. Verses 13 and 14 state, "*Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of*

*the Father,*) full of grace and truth."

Our physical birth was of human blood — "*The life of the flesh is in the blood.*" (*Leviticus 17:11*) And it was "*of the flesh*" and "*of the will of man.*"

The answer to the question, "How does a person receive Christ and be born of the Spirit?" is stated in verse 14 in nine words — "*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us . . .*" Therefore, when a person receives "the Word that became flesh," that person receives Jesus Christ and is born-again by the Spirit that is in the Word.

Another scripture that makes personal salvation plain and simple is *Romans 6:23*: "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" "Sin" is in the singular, and this singular sin is the sin of not receiving Christ and trusting in our own sinful nature. "*But the gift of God is eternal life.*"

Personal salvation can be received only as a gift, and that gift is eternal life. Eternal life is not our human, sinful life and nature made eternal. It is life from the eternal God.

Again, the unsaved must be instructed on how finite man accepts the gift of eternal life from the infinite God. The answer is,

"Through Jesus Christ our Lord." This is all very clear and plain to us who have experienced salvation, but it is not clear and plain to the unregenerate person. If the emphasis is now placed on Jesus Christ and what He has done and said, the Holy Spirit will make personal salvation and regeneration a reality to the seeker.

It is better to give the inquirer specific and definite scripture that he can remember and refer to, than to give so much and so many scriptures that he remembers and claims no specific scripture. And it should be made clear and plain that a person receives Christ when he receives a specific scripture pertaining to personal salvation.

Perhaps one of the best scriptures to use in guiding and helping the unsaved to come to the Savior is *1 John 5:9-13*: Verse 9 states, "*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.*" John is saying that if we believe what men say, should we not believe what God says about His Son? And any reasonable mind will answer, "Yes." God is greater and more reliable than man.

Verse 10 states what God has said about His Son, Jesus Christ: "*He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath*