

Understanding is the Key
By Barbara Spencer

*"When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,
Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will preserve you," Proverbs 2:10, 11 (NKJV)*

Upon entering this world, we find an abundance of rituals, and traditions, existing. Many never think about their meaning, how they affect us or apply in our lives, most of them are taken for granted. Sadly, many see Christianity as a state of **being**, not a state of **becoming** a Christian. No one is born a Christian. Nobody can just follow the traditions of family and friends, rituals, and traditions to become a Christian. This thinking may result in some living most of, or a lifetime without understanding the abundant life (**John 10:7-10**).

Today I want to offer a brief explanation of some basic elements of our faith:

- Believers experience two births and one physical death. (1) **Physical Birth**--born from the mother's womb. (2) **Spiritual Birth**--receiving the Holy Spirit from God at the time of confession, which guarantees Eternal Life after the end of this earthly life (**John 3:3-7**).
- Unbelievers receive one birth and two deaths: **Physical Birth** from the mother's womb, and (1) **Physical Death**--the end of earthly life; (2) **Eternal Death**--died in unbelief (**Hebrews 3:19**).
- The **Holy Spirit** is a person that comes to live and interact in a believer's life. He is a gift from God. He is the source of eternal life (**John 3:8**). He is compared to the wind (**John 14:26**).
- **Prayer** is talking to God. Whenever and however we pray, we want to give Him praises in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our advocate (**Hebrews 4:16**).
- **Two kinds of Church:** (1) **the Local Church** is a place to worship (**Galatians 1:1,2**), and (2) **the Universal Church** is every Believer (**1 Corinthians 12:13**).

References to certain basic Biblical points of emphasis may seem unnecessary to some, but there may be one who is seeking, and may gain greater insight. My submission is not meant to imply I am an authority on any part of the word. However, after hearing stories of churchgoers confessing to having been in Church years and not understanding Christianity, I felt compelled to share some findings. Some people did not know to ask questions. Some did not understand and were ashamed, or afraid to ask.

Prayerfully, a degree of good comes from this post. I believe compassion for others is an encouragement to step out of comfort zones.

"The best understanding is at most limited. We are perpetual learners of the word