5 Ws and H of Salvation

WHAT does it mean to be saved or born again?
When we think of someone being born, we think of a newborn baby who enters this world for the first time. The baby is innocent, vulnerable, and must learn to cope with his/her new reality. Now it is impossible for us to be born again physically; however, it is possible for us to be born again spiritually, born of the Holy Spirit of God. This means that just like a newborn baby, we must learn to cope with our new way of life and be taught how to live as children of God. We have a new nature that will produce righteous actions. We have to assimilate to a new culture, new way of thinking, and a new way of acting. This also means that we have citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven since we have now been born from above (John 3:5-8). Being born again means that we have been united with God through the Holy Spirit and that all of our sins have been forgiven by the sacrificial act of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins.

WHY do I need to be saved or born again?
Since we were little children, no one had to teach us to do wrong (sin); it occurred naturally. If we were to record all the wrong things we did, there would be an endless list. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that the wages of sin is death. Therefore, each of us deserves the full consequence of our action, death. However, through God's grace and mercy, He sent His son Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of our sin. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. So now we no longer have to pay the price for our sin. By accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we receive this free gift of salvation. Being born again wipes our slate clean; it takes all our sin (wrongdoing) and washes us clean so that we can be in right standing with God our Father. Being born again also ensures us access to the Kingdom of Heaven since we are now born into that Kingdom. Also, it re-establishes our status as Children of God (Romans 3:23; 6:23, John 1:12; 3:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21). However, if we do not receive this gift of salvation, we will suffer the consequence of our actions and forever be separated from our Creator, Lord, and Father.

WHO does this work of being born again?
The Holy Spirit! The Bible says in John 6:44, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them." The Holy Spirit of God impresses on our heart and mind a righteous conviction that leads us to true repentance and belief in Jesus as Lord. When the Holy Spirit tugs on our hearts, we should not go against the pulling; we should surrender to Him and accept Jesus as Lord. Salvation is available only because of God's grace and because of the sacrificial act of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the door to salvation, and the Holy Spirit will teach and guide us as we serve and live for Christ (John 16:13).

WHERE does being born again happen?
You can become born again anywhere. Proverbs 15:3 says that the eyes of the Lord are everywhere. All that is required is a believing repentant heart and a mouth that confesses Jesus as Lord. Being born again happens from the inside out. Philippians 2:13 says for God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." We become transformed by renewing our mind (internal), which will impact our actions and interactions with one another (external). The Holy Spirit begins a transformative work on the inside that will produce a Kingdom culture and Christ-like behavior on the outside.

WHEN should I become born again?
The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "…now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Tomorrow is not promised to anyone one of us. In fact, we live from moment to moment because all we have is our "right now." After all, even the next moment can be taken away from us.
Therefore, let us make our election and call sure (2 Peter 1:10). Accept Christ right now as your Lord and Savior while we still can.

HOW do I become born again?
To become born again, you simply have to talk to God and ask Him to save you; ask him to come into your heart. This process requires having an honest evaluation of oneself and concluding that on our own, we fall short of what is good and right. Therefore, we must put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to help us become what God has always intended us to be, His child. It is believing that Jesus Christ came to this earth for the primary purpose of dying on the cross; to redeem us so that our sins can be forgiven when we place our trust in Him as our Lord and Savior.

The Bible says in Romans 10:10, "it is with our heart that we believe and are justified, and it is with our mouth that we profess our faith in Jesus Christ and are saved." This is a supernatural process that occurs through the Holy Spirit. Once we confess our faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit takes residence in our hearts and begins a transformation in our lives from the inside out. The very moment you believe and accept Jesus as Lord, you become a child of God, a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, and you receive God's Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

Pray this prayer:
Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I am a sinner and repent of my sins. Please forgive me. I now accept your son Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead victoriously. I choose today to trust and follow Him as my Lord and savior. Thank you for receiving me by faith as your child and born again into your family and Kingdom in Jesus's name. Amen.

Welcome to the Family and Kingdom of God!