

## Are You Saved? Are You Born Again?

These are two questions some people did , and will, ask, you at one time or another, mostly at deaf events. The people who ask these two questions are more likely to be members from Baptist and/or Assembly of God churches which teach that each person must make a personal (and spiritual) decision for herself/himself to go to heaven or not. It is called Free Will to Choose. Also, in religious terms, it is called "Decision Theology."

Lutheran teachings do not accept "Decision Theology" at all. We teach that we do have a free will to choose - to do things against the Word of God. But we do not have that free will at all to do things in full and perfect agreement with the Word of God. Why? Because of original (inherited) sin and actual sins we do every day.

Baptist/Assembly of God teach that people have Free Will to Choose Jesus as Savior or not. That means that if a person wants to be saved, he must first choose Jesus as the Savior BEFORE Jesus washes his sins away with His holy Blood shed on cross.

Lutherans teach that the Lord God chooses us to be saved by using the Word of God to announce His love for us sinners in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God and the Holy Baptism to create (make) faith in us that Jesus already washed our sins from cross about two thousand years ago - all done and finished. The Lord God also uses the Holy Baptism to adopt us into His Family with full forgiveness of sins and salvation (saved) from sin, Satan and hell with His promise of eternal life.

So, when that person comes to you and ask you: Are you saved?  
You answer: **Jesus already (finished) saved me.** John 3: 16-18

That person ask: How?  
You answer: **The Lord God used the Word of God and Holy Baptism to save me.**  
Romans 1:16, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21

That person ask: So, you are born again. Right?  
You answer: **The Lord God makes me born** (new person in Christ) **from above** (heaven) **of water** (Holy Baptism) **and the Spirit** (the Word of God). John 3:3-7

That person ask: When did that happen?  
You answer: The date when you had your first baptism. NOTE: Second and third baptisms do not count at all, only the first one.

That person say: What? That happened when you were a baby? That is wrong!  
You answer: **I follow the Word of God, not you.** Then you **MUST** walk away from that person.