



## A WONDERFUL LIFE

*In Jesus, you can truly live again.*

by BOB HOSTETLER

IT WAS A BOX-OFFICE FLOP when it released in 1946, despite being the first postwar movie to star Jimmy Stewart, the leading man of the film. Though *It's a Wonderful Life* was nominated for five Academy Awards, it wasn't considered a success until the late 1970s, when it became a perennial holiday favorite. The story still evokes fond memories for many, who consider it an indispensable part of their Christmas celebrations.

Stewart played George Bailey, a man who felt like a failure and planned to commit suicide by throwing himself off a bridge on Christmas Eve — until he meets his fictional guardian angel, Clarence Odbody. Clarence reveals to George how his neighbors, friends, and family would have been different had he not been born. It's a life-changing revelation. After Clarence's intervention, George pleads with God from the bridge: "I want to live again! I want to live again! Please, God, let me live again!" His prayer is answered, and George is born again into a wonderful life. It's a nice story.

But in a real-life account from the Bible, Jesus once told a visitor, "Truly, I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

His listener replied, "How can anyone be born when he is old?" (John 3:4).

Jesus explained He was speaking of a spiritual reality only He could bring about: "The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 14:16).



"Everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

This can be the moment you are born again into a wonderful life with Christ, when "the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17). Sincerely pray, "Please, God, let me live again! I confess Jesus is Lord and believe You raised Him from the dead. I turn away from my sins and ask You to forgive me,

cleanse me, and give me new life in Jesus. I commit my life to You and ask You to take control, and help me follow You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888.537.8720.

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BOB HOSTETLER is an international speaker and author of 50 books, including the award-winning *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door* (co-authored with Josh McDowell) and *How to Survive the End of the World*. He lives in Nevada.