



Born Again

Charles W. Colson

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In 1974 Charles W. Colson pleaded guilty to Watergate-related offenses and, after a tumultuous investigation, served seven months in prison. In his search for meaning and purpose in the face of the Watergate scandal, Colson penned "Born Again." This unforgettable memoir shows a man who, seeking fulfillment in success and power, found it, paradoxically, in national disgrace and prison. In the decades since its initial publication, "Born Again" has brought hope and encouragement to millions. This remarkable story of new life continues to influence lives around the world through a dozen foreign editions.

Born Again Details

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From Reader Review Born Again for online ebook

John says

A great book for anyone seeking either spiritual inspiration or political insight into the Nixon administration. Definitely the most even-handed portrayal of Nixon and the Watergate scandal I've ever seen. Colson sheds a lot of light on the mistakes he made while working as Nixon's "hatchet man," and what it was like to plummet from such dizzying heights of worldly success. Halfway through, the book switches focus to Colson's spiritual journey and his evolution into one of the nation's leading voices on prison reform. BORN AGAIN is thought-provoking, well-written, and one of the more inspirational books I've come across.

abby says

a very inspiring and encouraging book! I heartily enjoyed reading about Chuck Colson's life during Nixon's presidency, during Watergate, how God got a hold of his heart and changed him and how He used him mighty through the Prison Fellowship! Slightly Armenian at parts, but otherwise a very good book!

Great Book Study says

A story of conviction and conversion: Born Again

Aaron W. Matthews says

This is an inspirational and highly motivating book. Many will not understand the "religious fervor" of Chuck Colson, but he does a phenomenal job of explaining who he was before Christ, his salvation experience, and how he walked through infancy in his redemption to spiritual growth. It is a great autobiography to help many readers understand what it looks like to trust Christ as Savior and learn to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. It's a great story of redemption. As I told a friend while I was reading it, "This is the story of a man who, at his zenith was Richard Nixon's right hand man. His actions held consequences, which meant he went to prison. But even in prison, because of his personal relationship with Jesus, he helped build God's kingdom." I was engrossed in this book, and was a little sad when it ended.

Paul says

It's been over 30 years since the events of Watergate started making history. A whole generation has grown up largely unaware, I suspect, of the significance of those events. I've followed Chuck Colson's work and writing almost since the beginning of Prison Fellowship and have developed a tremendous respect for the man. But only recently have I bothered to go back and read this book which tells how it all got started. I should not have waited so long.

This is the very inspiring and honest story of Colson's early career as chief counsel, confidant and friend to President Richard Nixon. As an insider, he gives his own account of the Watergate scandal and an honest confession of his own wrongdoings. This is also the story about how God can change the life of a man caught up in the corrupting influence of political power and bring great good out of evil. Since he was not directly involved in the Watergate doings, Colson probably could have easily avoided being convicted and sent to prison. But his encounter with Jesus Christ and conversion to Christianity strengthened his conscience and led him to plead guilty to an unrelated crime that he did commit. He went to prison and saw a different side of the "law and order" society that the Nixon Administration sought to promote. Even through the fear and despair of those times, the power of God became even more evident to Chuck Colson while in prison.

This is an amazing account of how a life submitted to Jesus Christ can reconcile enemies, create strong bonds of friendship, and heal terrible wounds in the hearts of both the rich and powerful and the poor and helpless. It's wonderful to read. If this book has an impact on you, then you will also want to read its sequel, "Life Sentence".

Kaya says

Once I got through all the political mishmash, this was an AMAZING story of one man's coming to Christianity, and how so many other's lives were changed through Watergate and what followed.

Sometimes, we lose the thrill! The wonder! The shock that God sent his son to die for us. Sometimes, we don't stop to think about how he's working in our life, in everyone's life. Sometimes, we tend to rely on ourselves for "just that one small thing" when in reality, it's Jesus we should be going to every single time.

Charles Coulson's story is one of hatred turning to love, pride turning to selflessness. It's the story of a newborn Christian, and it's one that has transformed endless lives, to which I can only say: Praise the Lord!

cloudyskye says

This was a wonderful and sometimes daunting insight into the lives and actions of those who rule nations - and who are only human and fallible after all. (Nothing new under the sun ...)

It is also a testimony of how only in Jesus hearts can be changed.

The part that deals with Colson's time in prison is not even that long, but very impressive, with his compassion for his less well-connected fellow inmates shining through.

Throughout the book he stresses the incredible strength and support that comes from spiritual fellowship and unity, whether with his group in the White House or the prayer group in prison.

Now I really want to find out what that prison ministry he started looks like in our days.

Jason D'Souza says

"Prison turned out to be one of the best things that ever happened to me," (The Good Life, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, Wheaton, IL, 2005)p 23 says Chuck Colson in 60 Minutes, after the 20 year anniversary of Watergate.

The Wall Street Journal printed a front page report in the 1970's, on "Nixon's Hatchet Man. Call it What You Will Chuck Colson Handles President's Dirty Work." (Born Again, Chuck Colson, Chosen Books, Old Tappan, New Jersey, 1976, pg57) Born in Boston, joined the military, the former Marine captain was fiercely loyal to the president and would do anything for Nixon: smear campaigning, setting-up government leaks and infamously boasted that he would "run over his grandmother".

Sentenced to prison for the Watergate affair, the White House adviser writes, "When I was shipped... to the federal prison camp at Maxwell Air force base, would read Mere Christianity, have his life humbled, turn to God, write a book called Born Again and after serving time in jail, he would begin the largest prison ministry in the world, ministering to murderers, thieves and rapists. Gods grace extends to the worst criminals. There is no one on earth whom He will not give a second, third and fourth chance too.

And the criminal being crucified on the cross turned his head and said, "Jesus remember me when you come to your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk. 23:42-43, ESV)

Chuck Colson - the Hatchet Man who went to jail for Watergate in the 70's became the leader in the world for criminal justice reform.

"My experience in prison helped me see who I really was. When I was shipped from Fort Holabird to the Federal prison camp... I experienced some depressing moments." (The Good Life, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, Wheaton, IL, 2005) pg 27 My fellow prisoners were from small time to heavy duty.

"I never truly understood people until I was crushed. Until I lost everything and ended up in prison."

Colson was released from prison in January 1975. He planned to go back to Boston and work in law. Then president Nixon while in exile in California, welcomed his loyal friend back home and said on the phone, "You know, boy, you have tremendous ability. You can go to the top in the business world and make millions. You just give me the word." (The Good Life, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, Wheaton, IL, 2005)pg29)

The Proverbs say that pride comes before a fall. What was the mark of the fall of Nixon? It was the very thing that he most adored that brought him down! As Chuck Colson says in his own words, "Hubris became the mark of the Nixon man because hubris was the quality Nixon admired most.. maybe it was bald stupidity.. but it sure was hubris." (Born Again, Chuck Colson, Chosen Books, Old Tappan, New Jersey, 1976, pg 72)

Dkovlak says

This is a great book. Mr. Colson tells many details of what it was like to be in the Nixon White House, which is very interesting. He also tells of many miracles (works of the Holy Spirit) throughout his Christian life.

The tremendous result of his imprisonment and the creation of Prison Fellowship Ministries could not have been imagined by any human being, but could only be accomplished by the work of the Holy Spirit.

The book MERE CHRISTIANITY by CS Lewis was key to Mr. Colson becoming a Christian and key to turning his life around and the lives of thousands of others.

This tough Marine ended up bringing prison populations, worldwide, to Christ. His work goes on even though he left this earth to be with Jesus several years ago.

Davis says

This is a very, very inspiring and hardcore biography. Colson doesn't mince details, and it was fascinating to see what daily life in the White House is like, and how much of a burden it really is to be the adviser to the head of the nation. Colson also met a variety of people in his life, and his relationships grew stronger with them as time progressed, although I do wish he would specify who was who, as I started to become overwhelmed (in my edition, there's even a huge list of all names in the book and page references for them all.) But besides that, this is a near flawless account. God working very subtle changes in this man's life is the key point which is expanded upon as his days in prison progress. Highly, highly recommended. (And if you're willing to wave it off for it being a "religious book", ya really don't know what you're missing. The story of this man's change is perhaps one of the most relatable examples.)

Ronald Wise says

I first read this book 1986 after receiving it from a friend as part of the library he got tired of lugging around. It was one of those Christian books he was probably required to read while attending the parochial Seattle Pacific University. While useful as an insider's look at events leading up to the Watergate Scandal and, later, prison life, Colson obviously wrote this book as the first of many Christian testimonies. Reading it again after a couple of decades and the death of Nixon, I had a more historical perspective this time. But I found it somewhat amusing that the emptiness Colson felt following Nixon's re-election, he so readily attributed to the absence of God in his life rather than the fact that he and the Nixon Administration had abandoned the principals that were supposedly espousing.

Barry says

Chuck Colson was special counsel to President Richard Nixon and the first member of the Nixon White House to serve prison time in the 1972 Watergate scandal. As Colson was facing arrest, a close friend gave him a copy C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. Lewis wrote that when you walk through life looking up toward God, you come up against something immeasurably greater than yourself. But a proud man who is walking through life looking down on other people cannot see something, something immeasurably superior, above himself.

The words cut Colson to the heart. Confronted with his prideful heart that had led to his downfall, in a flood of tears sitting in a friend's driveway, Colson surrendered his life to Christ. "There I was," Colson said, "a proud, ex-Marine captain, White House hatchet man, calling out to God! . . . All I knew was that that night I desperately wanted to know the living God. I desperately wanted my sins lifted from me. I desperately wanted to know what this man was writing about."

The next week, Colson read *Mere Christianity* cover to cover, making notes on a yellow legal pad on which he had made two columns: There is a God/There isn't a God; Jesus Christ is God/He isn't God. "I went through the book and came against an intellect as formidable as any I had faced in my life of politics or law—the mind of C.S. Lewis. I became convinced of the truth that Jesus Christ is God."

Colson became a Christian. Following prayer and consultation with a Capitol Hill prayer fellowship group he had joined, Colson pled guilty to obstruction of justice and served seven months at Maxwell Prison in Alabama. Not long after his release, he founded Prison Fellowship and spent the rest of his life ministering to

prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. After Watergate, the only thing that mattered to Colson was having a right relationship with Jesus Christ and ministering the grace he had received to as many people as possible.

Chuck Colson's life is a powerful testimony to the transforming power of the Gospel. One who bore the image of the man of dust became one who bore the image of the Man of Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:47-49). Colson told the story of his conversion in his 1976 book *Born Again*. In an introduction to the 2008 edition he wrote: "The real story was that Christ had reached down to me, even in my disgrace and shame, and revealed Himself as the One who forgives and makes new. *Born Again* is the story of a broken man transformed by the love and power of Jesus Christ—who continues to transform me every passing day." I give thanks for the life and influence of Chuck Colson and look forward to seeing him at the Resurrection. I also strongly recommend his book *Born Again*, and the book that led to his conversion, C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*.

Gabriela says

There were a few things that I disagreed with, but overall it was absolutely amazing and moving and inspiring.

Abigail says

I should have just dnfed this months ago, yet I kept it on my currently read list hoping that I would one day finish it. This book for the first one-hundred or more pages was so boring. I honestly hate politics and that's all it was. It was very boring and confusing. The second half though did get interesting. It was about Chuck Colson's conversion. I never got to the part where he was put into prison and then later started prison ministries. But overall this wasn't that bad of a book, I just never got around to finishing it. I hope to one day finish it, so I can accomplish it. But for now, this is as far as I'm getting!

Sophie Janet says

"Of course, of course, of course, I thought to myself. There is a purpose for my being here, perhaps a mission the Lord has called me to."

This is harrowing story of a man come from the Watergate Scandal to prison, in the midst of it all, finding Jesus and realizing His importance in his life. I deeply appreciate Colson's honesty and humility in the sharing of his life.

It's been no easy ride, having gone from Nixon's go-to to finding himself in the slammer. But through it all, Charles Colson gave his life story about how he found Jesus.

There is so much to say about this book, but all I can say is praise Jesus! Because through the unlikely friendships found, the miraculous healing of inmates, and the deep love impressed into this book is certainly one that serves to give thanks to God. And what a fitting time! Thanksgiving is coming up as I write this, reminding me of the hundreds of things I have to thank God for. He is so good, and I love how He works.

This book is another good reminder that God works in all sorts of ways, everywhere.

"Never could I have imagined all this when I left prison...I look with awe at what God has done. And I thank Him for His mercy."
