

**NEW LIFE**  
-Ryan Parsons-

Today, babies are welcomed into the world with balloons, stuffed animals, baby blankets, and diaper sculptures of tricycles. All of this comes after the exploding blue or pink gender reveal parties and cupcake-filled baby showers. What is all the hype about? Babies are cute, but they are extremely ill-tempered, inconsiderate, demanding, and hard to get along with. In addition, their arrivals are messy, painful, and exhausting. Then, once they are here, a lifetime of hard work lies ahead.

So, what's all this fuss about babies? When they enter the world screaming and crying, their mom and dad look at them with tears of happiness in their eyes. It is a beautiful moment. And, despite all the kid's crankiness, the parents act on-demand out of love for this new child of theirs. A mother never forgets the pain of carrying a child in her womb and the torment of labor, yet she lays it aside because of the joy she now holds in her arms. Who can blame her? What is better than a baby, crying or not? It is a new life where life didn't exist.

Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Reflecting on the beauty of a new child helps us appreciate what we learn about the new life offered to us in Jesus. Sometimes, when we read about it in scripture, we move along without giving thought to the pain that was endured to birth us into that newness of life (John 3:16, Hebrews 12:2)

Thankfully, we know, that despite the pain, each time a new life emerges there is immense joy in heaven!

Luke 15:10

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Praise be to God who provides a way for us to live a new life!

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

How does it feel to be celebrated upon arrival into God's family? Spend some time this week reflecting on the new life you have in Christ, and share your birth story with someone who needs to hear it!