

“Be Born Again”

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”⁴

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?

¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”

- John 3:1-15

What do we learn from John 3?

1. Jesus is the one who makes us new.

“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit”

- John 3: 5-6

“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

- Ephesians 2:4-5

- Jesus is the one who has the power to give Nicodemus a new birth
- Nicodemus’ response is to believe

2. This New Birth comes through belief in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

“No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”

- John 3:13-14

- Nicodemus is told that the Son of Man must be lifted up so that those who believe will receive eternal life

3. The sign of someone’s new birth is the dwelling of the Holy Spirit within them.

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

- John 3:8

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

- John 14:26

- The Spirit guides in the process of us being made new
- He advocates for us, comforts us, and convicts us of our sin

4. Don’t be surprised that a supernatural kingdom requires a supernatural birth.

“Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

- John 3:3

- We must believe in Christ for us to be born again into the eternal Kingdom of God

Concluding Statement:

“To be a Christian is to be brought from death to life by a Saviour who was brought from death to life.”

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