

2—Born of the Spirit

4/14/24

INTRO:

I. → John 3:1-8

*3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a ruler of the Judeans. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we **can see** that you are a teacher who has come from **God**. For no one **could** perform the miracles you are doing unless **God** were him."*

*→ 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one **can see** the kingdom of **God** unless they are **born again from above**." "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**. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 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**."*

II. NICODEMUS TOOK HIS ADVICE

A. Defended Jesus at his trial (John 7:50-51)

B. Brought myrrh and aloes to help bury Jesus (John 19:39-40)

BODY:

I. **Born from Above**

Grk (*ánōthen*) from above, again, from the top

3 "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again from above."

- A. We were born for a higher purpose and mission.
- 1) **John 1:12-13**
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
 - 2) **GOD DOES NOT HAVE ACCIDENTAL CHILDREN**
- B. His mission cannot be accomplished in our own power.
- 1) **Luke 1:35-36**
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."
 - 2) **GETTING SUNCAT STUCK IN JAMAICA**

II. **Born of the Water**

Grk (*húdatos*)

- A. Baptism is a symbol of the spiritual cleansing we all need.
- 1) **RITUAL CLEANSING OF A GENTILE CONVERT**
 - 2) **Titus 3:4-5**
*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the **washing of rebirth** and **renewal** by the Holy Spirit.*
 - 3) **LITTLE KIDS FRESH AND CLEAN**
- B. Being born again is our opportunity to start a new life.
- 1) **Romans 6:4**
We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
 - 2) **GETTING BAPTIZED BY JERRY SANFORD**

III. Born of the Spirit

Grk (*pneúmatos*)

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

A. God has breathed His Spirit into us to make us alive.

1) **Genesis 2:7**

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

2) **1 Corinthians 15:45**

*So it is written: "The first man Adam became a **living being**"; the last Adam, a **life-giving Spirit**.*

3) **E. T.—BACK TO LIFE**

B. When our flesh is weak, His Spirit is what keeps us going.

1) **John 20:21-22**

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

2) **COASTING IN ON FUMES**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Ezekiel 36:25-26

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

John 3:31

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Ephesians 4:23

To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Peter 3:21

And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.

James 1:17-18

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.