

Discussion Questions

Date: July 26th, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Born Again Conversion | John 3:1-7; Titus 3:5; 1 John 3:9-10, 14

The New Birth and How to Receive It (John 3:1-7; Titus 3:5; Col 2:13; 2 Cor 5:17)

- The new birth brings to life a soul that is dead in sin. (John 3:1-7; Col 2:13-15; 2 Cor 5:17)
- The new birth is only received through the grace of God. (Titus 3:5-7)
- **Question:** Have you experienced new life in Jesus? If you have been born again, where are you experiencing new life? The world needs to hear your testimony of a changed life.

Evidences of the New Birth (1 John 3:9-10, 14, 23-24; 4:13-18; Eph 2:1-10)

- You believe and confess that Jesus is the Messiah (1 John 2:22-25; 5:1)
- You have the witness of the Holy Spirit that you belong to God. (Rom. 8:12-17)
- You no longer make a practice of sin. (1 John 3:9-10)
- You no longer live for the material success and praise of this world. (1 John 2:15-17; Eph 2:1-5)
- You begin to love people in actions, not just words. (1 John 3:14-18; Eph 2:8-10)
- **Question:** Do you bear the evidence of the new birth in your life? For struggling believers, seek a refilling of the Holy Spirit. For those in unbelief, come to him for the new birth today.

Bottom Line: Jesus makes dead hearts come alive!

Talking Points

- * Why do you think Jesus states that being born again is a spiritual need rather than just an optional or even wise step to take for self-improvement?
- * What are some ways we can look at salvation as a transactional experience? Why is it important we see it as a transformational experience instead?
- * When you stumble or are struggling with something in your life, do you tend to try harder to fix it yourself, or do you run to Jesus for renewal? Why do we try to fix it ourselves, even while possibly knowing it is impossible to?
- * How can we distinguish between a believer who struggles, wrestles with sin versus someone who lives in persistent/unrepentant sin?
- * In what specific areas of your life do you struggle most with pursuing worldly praise or glory rather than seeking to honor God? Why do we sometimes get caught up in seeking affirmation from the world rather than from the one who created it?
- * How is sacrificial love for others a fruit of spiritual regeneration? How do we know if our acts of love are genuine rather than just transactional?
- * What sin is more present or recurring in your life than you would like to admit? What are some different, possibly more challenging, steps you can take this week to help remove it from your life?

Pray about those who need the love of Jesus around you. What is one way you can show sacrificial love to one or more of these people this week (in a way that will cost you)?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

