

MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE

MOVE: Part One

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There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ² After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” ³ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” ⁴ “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” ⁵ Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰ Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? ¹¹ I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. ¹² But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:1–15, NLT)

BEFORE CHRIST...

1. MY BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT I’M SPIRITUALLY DEAD.

“But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”” (Genesis 2:16–17, NLT)

“...We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ...” (Ephesians 2:4, CEV)

2. MY BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO GOD IS TRYING TO BE GOOD.

“For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.” (Romans 3:20, NLT)

HOW TO MOVE FROM DEATH TO LIFE

The G.O.S.P.E.L.

God so loved the world that He gave His Only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not Perish but have Everlasting Life. (John 3:16, NKJV)

1. **RECOGNIZE** God's love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1 John 4:9-10, NLT)

2. **REALIZE** God's gift.

Out of sheer generosity [God] put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. (Romans 3:24-25a, The Message)

For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us! (2 Corinthians 5:21, The Living Bible)

3. **RESPOND** to God's offer.

The free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; (Titus 2:11, The Living Bible)

But now God has shown us a different way to heaven—not by “being good enough” and trying to keep his laws, but by a new way...Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us “not guilty”—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like. (Romans 3:22, The Living Bible)

4. **RELY** on God's promise.

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.” (John 5:24, NLT)

“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, The Living Bible)

LAST THOUGHT:

*The number one factor that keeps people from becoming a Christian is **FEAR**.*