John 3 Pt 1 Born Again

Jesus

John 3:1-7 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Trying Hard to be Good is not Salvation but Self-Deception
You Must be Born Again.

I. New Birth *I Say to You…*

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

Nicodemus: Well Respected Religious Leader
Pharisee/Ruler of the Jews/Keeper of the Law/Believed the Right Things

- Believed in **Supernatural**
- Believed in **Angels**
- Believed in **Life after Death**
- Believed in **Moral Standards**
- Believed in **Veracity of the Word of God**

Yet Apart from the Following Meeting w/Jesus
Nicodemus would eventually Crucify the Son of God and Gone to Hell
He was Without God/Without Hope…

2 This man came to **Jesus by night…**

Nic Came by Night…But at least He Came
True Courage: Being afraid to do what you know is right…Doing it anyway

2b… and [Nicodemus] said to [Jesus], "Rabbi, **we know** that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

- We know: We the Religious leaders have agreed…Blah blah blah
- Jesus interrupts Nic…

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, **I say to you**, unless one is **born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

I say to you: Jesus gets Personal w/this Respected Religious Ruler
You Nic must be Born Again to go to Heaven. IOW's You Nic are not ready to die

Jesus says to you: Getting personal
You *must be* Born Again. Are *you* ready to die?

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**.

Born-Again/Second Birth/Born of God

▪ **Born of Water**	Born Physically	Born of woman	Flesh begets flesh
▪ **Born of Spirit**	Born Spiritually	Born of God	Spirit begets Spirit

2 Peter 1:4 [God has…] given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God …4** For whatever is **born of God** overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

- Nic believed he could work for Salvation
- My random acts of kindness are not enough?
- Does not realize his need for forgiveness

Your acts of niceness do not even count. Filthy rags. Why?
They were not done for the glory of God but to be seen by men

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, **'You must be born again.'**

- **Marvel:** gr. *Thaumazō*. lit. To wonder/Admire

Jesus answers the expression on Nic's face
Don't Marvel Nic/Instead Listen…

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

We don't see the wind but hear it/See the result of it in the leaves
We don't see the Spirit but see the result of His power in changed lives

He undergoes a mysterious change, he becomes a new man, he enters into a new life which others cannot comprehend; though they hear the sound of it, they cannot tell where this man's new life comes, or where it is going. He has become a spiritual person, not [understood by] natural men. [Spurgeon]

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going.**

- Begin to love what God loves/Hate what He hates
- Understand His Word and Love His people
- Desire to see others do have the same and be in heaven together
- Find our very identity in Christ

You *must* be Born Again

1 Peter 1:23 [We have] **been born again**, not of corruptible seed [water/flesh] but incorruptible [Spirit/God], **through the word of God** which lives and **abides forever**, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever."

- **1st Birth:** Fading
- **2nd Birth**: Eternal

James 1:21 …lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive** with meekness the **implanted word**, which is able to **save your souls**.

Lay Aside your Sin/Humbly Receive Life
Receive the Incorruptible Seed/Implanted Word of God…Able to save your Soul

Trusting in Externalism/Niceness is Self-Deception
We must be Born-Again

If the reality of Jesus can come and live in me, then I can live that kind of life. That's the gospel, you see. And everything else is a call to externalism. [*We say to people…]* Well, come on now. Have a good week. Try and be a kind person this week. Do your best this week. Shape up. Stop swearing in your car. Stop getting aggravated at other drivers. Try and be nicer to your wife. Give yourself a shake. Pull your socks up. Spend more time with your kids. Blah blah blah. The guy's going, *"You know what? I don't even know if I want to. And even if I wanted to, I don't even know if I can."* **That's not Christianity. That's moralism. That's externalism…**its people being **called to a lifestyle *without any life*.** And it is the worst possible thing I can imagine to do Christian stuff without knowing why or how; To be involved in externalism, moralism and just doing stuff. I have interest in doing stuff. All the stuff I want to do by nature is bad stuff. Believe me. And unless someone came and **changed the mechanism inside of me**, I'd be doing all that bad stuff. And as it is, I still do some of it. So the **identity is key to the activity. To be called to activity without an identity is to live in externalism** which is bogus and worthless and facile and empty and trivial and irrelevant. And the world looks on and says, "I want none of it." And frankly, I couldn't agree more. But when life comes into the tree, **then leaves appear on the branches… *and fruit begins to be seen*** [italic mine] [Begg]

Ephesians 1:13 In [Jesus] you also **trusted**, after you **heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having **believed**, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise…

What Word of Truth must we Receive to be Born Again?
Cease Trusting in your own vain Righteousness/Trust in Jesus to Save Your Soul

IOWs Do you know your need for forgiveness? Can you shout…
I'm Ransomed. I'm Restored. I'm Forgiven. Praise God

- Darkness to Light. Death to Life.

Grace transforms desolate and bleak plains into rich, green pastures. It changes grit-your-teeth duty into loving, enthusiastic service. It exchanges the tears and guilt of our own failed efforts for the eternal thrill and laughter of freely offered pleasures at the right hand of God. [Smith, Grace Changes Everything]

Everyone Born of the Spirit is like the effect of wind when it blows
Can't see exactly what's going on/We can see the Results/Change/Fruit

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "**How can these things be**?"
10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?

- Are you…

1. Teacher of Israel/Not born again?
2. Teacher of Sunday School/Not born again?
3. Pastor/Not born again?
4. Christian family/Not born again? Tasted not ingested as John 6

You may be asking: How come I've never seen/heard of this before?
Because today you're Eyes/Ears are in the Process of being Opened by God

Do not marvel that *I said to you*… You must be born again
You are on your way to hell if you die today. Today is the Day of Salvation

[Too harsh?] …we are so gentle and quiet, we do not use strong language about other people's opinions; but *let men go to hell out of charity to them*. [Spurgeon]

11 Most assuredly, I say to you, **We speak** what **We know** and testify what **We have seen**, and you do not receive **Our witness**.

We Speak/We Know/We Saw/We Witnessed of Heaven: Triune God.
Father/Son/Holy Spirit
Now speaking to Nic of the Pharisees' rejection: You must separate yourself

12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

- **I used earthly terms:** Childbirth/Wind/You don't get it
- How will you understand the Spiritual? *…But hey, let's give it a try*

13 **No one has ascended** to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man **who is in heaven**.

I Am the only One who Ascended to Heaven
Came down from Heaven/Lives in Heaven

- Seated in the Heavenlies

IOWs I know Heaven like the back of My hand
I have Absolute Authority to Speak of Heaven/How to Get There

- **Nic:** I don't see that in the OT…

14 And **as Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up 15 that whoever believes in Him **should not perish but have eternal life.**

For men to be saved
I must be Lifted up as the Serpent in the OT

Numbers 21:4 … the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." 6 **So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people**, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "**Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."** 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

- People were dying because of sin
- God provided a remedy: Gaze on the bronze serpent and live

Snake: Picture of Jesus taking the sin of world upon Himself on the cross
Look and Live: IOWs Gaze on the Cross you belong on and Live

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God the Father] made Him who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"…**

Ugliness/Penalty of Our Sin. Jesus Took/Felt/Experienced in our Place
Great Exchange: Our Sin for His Righteousness. Look and Live

To "look" and "believe" were synonymous terms. "Looking" on the Old Testament serpent is identical with "believing" on the New Testament Christ. That is, the looking and the believing are the same thing. [We] understand that while Israel looked with their external eyes, believing is done with the heart. [We can] conclude that faith is the *gaze of a soul upon a saving God*… Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things possible to do. It would be like God to make the most vital thing easy and place it within the range of possibility for the weakest and poorest of us. [Tozer]

OT Examples of being Born Again
IOWs The point where they stopped trusting in themselves/Fully trusted in Jesus

Romans 4:2 …if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? **"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."** 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who

justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as **David** also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 **"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."**

Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world

Whoever believes in Me will not perish but have Eternal Life
God's Plan from Eternity Past…

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him **should not perish but have everlasting life.**

Love, not Nails, held Jesus to the Cross
God the Father willingly gave His Son who willingly gave Himself for us…

…that **whoever** believes; i.e. Everyone who gazes on the Cross.
From Nic who thought he was too good to the Samaritan woman who thought she was too bad

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And **such were some of you**. But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and **by the Spirit of our God.**

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in [Jesus] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned **already,** because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus is the Litmus Test. Do you need forgiveness?
Reject Him/Remain Condemned/Believe in Him/Be saved

Jesus to Nicodemus
Don't Marvel when you will see people reject Salvation/Me…Why?

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

This is the Condemnation/Verdict
Why judgment must come…

- Light/Remedy has come into the world exposing the darkness of humanity
- Humans love evil/Don't want evil deeds exposed/Don't want to stop. Reject Remedy
- Humans hate the Light because it will expose of who they really are/Want to be, yet

Jesus will not turn away anyone who comes to Him in humility
No matter what you've done. *No matter what you've done*

John 6:37 … the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

- Wedding: Good/Bad invited. Only on cast out came in His own clothes Mat 22
- Self sins: Self-righteousness/Reliance/Centeredness. Filthy rags.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

Not to Condemn but to Save…Save who? **A.** Whosoever

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] desires **all men** to be saved/come to the knowledge of the truth.

21 But he who **does the truth comes to the light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

John 1:9 [Jesus is] the **true Light** which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Choice for Every Man/Woman/Young Adult/Youth/Child old enough to understand

- **Reject Truth:** Push away/Disregard the Light given leading to damnation
- **Receive Truth:** Accept/Respond to the Light by belief leading to Jesus/Eternal Life

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You Must be Born Again.