

# YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

JOHN 3:1-11

Salvation is not found through religion, knowledge, good works, or status.

**EVERY PERSON MUST EXPERIENCE A SPIRITUAL REBIRTH THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.**

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## NICODEMUS: A RELIGIOUS MAN WHO NEEDED SALVATION

JOHN 3:1

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a respected teacher of the Law, a wealthy man, and a member of the Jewish ruling council (Sanhedrin). If anyone appeared qualified for God's Kingdom based on religious achievements, it was Nicodemus. Yet Jesus shows that religion alone cannot save.

**KEY TRUTH:** Religious activity cannot replace a personal relationship with God.

2



## NICODEMUS COMES TO JESUS AT NIGHT

JOHN 3:2

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. The Bible does not tell us exactly why. He may have desired privacy or feared criticism from other leaders. John often uses physical details to reveal spiritual realities. Nicodemus came in physical darkness and was also seeking spiritual light.

**KEY TRUTH:** Jesus welcomes sincere seekers who have questions.

3



## THE REQUIREMENT FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

JOHN 3:3

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

The phrase "very truly" emphasizes the importance of Jesus' statement. Being "born again" refers to a spiritual rebirth, not a physical one. Jesus teaches that entering God's Kingdom requires more than morality or religion—it requires a transformed heart.

**KEY TRUTH:** Every person needs a spiritual rebirth.

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## NICODEMUS MISUNDERSTANDS

JOHN 3:4

Nicodemus thought Jesus was speaking about a second physical birth. Like many people throughout the Gospels, he focused on earthly things while Jesus was teaching spiritual truths.

**KEY TRUTH:** Spiritual truths are understood through God's revelation, not merely human reasoning.



## MEMORY VERSE

*"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." John 3:3 (NIV)*

# THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## *Changes Everything*



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### BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT

JOHN 3:5-7



Jesus explains that physical birth (“water”) brings physical life, but spiritual birth comes through the Holy Spirit. Every person is physically alive but spiritually separated from God because of sin. Only the Holy Spirit can give new spiritual life.

**KEY TRUTH:** Physical birth makes us children of Adam; spiritual birth makes us children of God.

#### SPIRITUAL BIRTH MEANS:

- New life from God
- A new heart
- Forgiveness of sins
- Becoming a child of God
- Eternal life

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### THE WIND AND THE SPIRIT



Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to the wind. We cannot see the wind itself, but we see its effects. In the same way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but His work becomes evident in a changed life.

**KEY TRUTH:** A transformed life reveals the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL REBIRTH

- ✓ A growing love for God
- ✓ A desire to obey His Word
- ✓ Conviction of sin
- ✓ Changed attitudes and priorities
- ✓ A new desire to serve others

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### KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH



Despite being Israel’s teacher, Nicodemus did not understand the necessity of spiritual rebirth. He knew the Scriptures but had missed their central message. Jesus reminds him that knowing about God is not the same as truly knowing God.

**KEY TRUTH:** Salvation comes through God’s grace, not human effort.

#### WHAT NICODEMUS HAD:

- ✓ Religious knowledge
- ✓ Spiritual training
- ✓ High position
- ✓ Good reputation
- X But still needed to be born again

#### SUMMARY: FIVE LESSONS FROM JOHN 3:1-11

- 1 Religion cannot save.
- 2 Every person must be born again.
- 3 The Holy Spirit gives spiritual life.
- 4 Salvation is received, not earned.
- 5 Genuine faith produces a transformed life.



#### APPLICATION

Whether you are a seeker like Nicodemus or a believer, remember: new life in Christ is not about what you do for God, but what God has done for you. Trust in Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and life.

#### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

##### 1. FILL IN THE BLANK

Jesus told Nicodemus that no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 2. FILL IN THE BLANK

Jesus compared the work of the Holy Spirit to the \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 3. CHALLENGING QUESTION

Nicodemus was religious, respected, knowledgeable, and morally disciplined, yet Jesus told him he still needed to be born again. Why can religious activity become a substitute for a genuine relationship with God, and how can believers guard against that today?



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)