

Good News: You Can Be Born Again!

John 3:1-21 New Living Translation

3 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,[a] 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?”

- It’s only natural for humans to think naturally.
- We’re limited to seeing and understanding this world from a human perspective.
- So when Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born again, Nicodemus thinks he means going back into his mother’s belly.
- He thinks being born again means a second natural birth.
- But what Jesus is referring to is a first spiritual birth.
- God is a spirit, and His children must experience a new spiritual birth to see His Kingdom.

5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.[b] 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.[c] 7 So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’

- There is good news for the sinner today.
- What is a sinner? Every single person born into this world received a sinful nature from Adam. Sin is the condition of the rebellious human heart, and all sin leads to eternal separation from God. Also known as death!
- **Romans 6:23 New Living Translation**
- 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- The greatest news in human history is that we can be born again! It is the shedding of the sinful nature, and being made one with Christ!
- Please tell two people “You can be born again!”

- This isn't news to the majority of you. You know about being born again, and some of you are. But can you explain it?
- If we are the messengers of Jesus Christ, spreading this good news, we must be able to lead people into a new life.
- You cannot see or enter being born again! The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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[e] 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.[f]

- Humanity has a major problem that we have the answer for!
- People are lost in their sins and we have a responsibility to tell them how to get out!
- Jesus was lifted up and killed on the cross so that everyone who believes He is the son of God, and the payment for their sins, will have eternal life.
- We've all communicated many things to people over the years, but these words are the most important in all of human history.
- There is nothing better that you could tell someone that will provide them with eternal security, and lasting joy.

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[g] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

- As I woke up this morning the letters LFI were being repeated over and over in my mind.
- For those familiar with our teachings at New Life, what does the L stand for in Life? What about the F? Now I?
- Love, Faith, Identity

- When a person hears the message of God's love, and by faith believes the good news, they receive a new identity in Christ.
- They are born again, coming to life through faith in Christ.

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

- We are saved from God's judgement and punishment of this world only by believing in Jesus.
- Never forget this, belief requires action, faith requires works.
- We must not only believe in Jesus, but follow His teachings and commands.
- To be born again is to leave the darkness behind and walk in the Messiah's light.

19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.[h]"

Romans 10:5-15 New Living Translation

5 For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands.[a] 6 But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth). 7 And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)." 8 In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." [b] And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." [c] 12 Jew and Gentile [d] are the same in

this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. 13 For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”[e]

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”[f]

Do you openly declare that Jesus Christ is Lord?

Why is this important? Because it's by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Do you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

Why is this important? Because it's by believing in your heart that you are made right with God.

Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

Jesus, I openly declare my faith in you as Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead, by doing what you've required in your word, I believe right now that I am saved and have been made right with God!

Matthew 28:18-20 New Living Translation

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

