

February 23

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

Over the years, I had several students who chose to enter the military after graduation or after going to college. I quickly learned that there was not a “type” of student who volunteered as some were outgoing and some were among the quietest, most gently people I had ever taught. Both male and female would share that joining the military had always been their dream. When I would see them after training or after they had served a few years, I could immediately see the change in them. They were more confident. They walked not with arrogance but with a demeanor that caused them to stand out. They were all polite and respectful. Because of their choices, they were at peace with themselves and with whatever the future held for them. They were equipped with the idea of peace or with the idea of having to defend others. The change was astonishing, and it touched me. I knew that they were living what they believed.

Jesus tells us that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless we are born again. This is a very clear and succinct statement. When we are born again, we become new creations, leaving the past behind and embracing our new lives in Christ Jesus. No matter what type of life we lived before accepting Christ, we all go through a transformation, and that transformation should be as pronounced as the transformation I had seen in my students. Once we truly accept Christ, we are born again into His Spirit and His life. As a result, our actions, words, and attitudes should bear the mark of that transformation. As children of God we are in the world but not of the world; therefore, we should stand out because we are different. We are to walk in the peace of Christ that sets us apart in a world that is in turmoil. Our words are words of life and healing and restoration while the world tosses vindictive words around like hand grenades. We walk in a confidence – not arrogance – that stems from knowing Christ is the answer and that His word is absolutely true. God’s children walk in love, fight the darkness not people, speak words that bring life and not curses. We, too, are also soldiers of God, and we should be at peace with whatever future the Lord holds in His hands. This does not mean we escape troubles or challenges or mistakes; it does mean that we get back up and keep moving forward with the help of our Lord and Savior.