

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

**John 3:1-21**

1Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3Jesus answered and said to him, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

4Nicodemus \*said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” 5Jesus answered, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’** **John 3:1-7 NASB**

- Nicodemus comes to see Jesus.
  - He is a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (the highest Jewish tribunal), a ruler of the Jews. He is a teacher of the Law and traditions held as vital as scripture.
  - He comes to Jesus at night (tradition has this meeting taking place at John’s home).
  - Nicodemus tells Jesus that he knows that Jesus is sent from God because of the signs, wonders, and miracles ( attesting miracles) that he has done.
- Jesus astounds Nicodemus with His response...”You must be born again (or from above) you cannot see the kingdom of God.”
  - Nicodemus’s response...”A man can not enter his mother’s womb a second time, can he?” DUH!
- Jesus reiterates His statement in **v5-6...**”unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he can not enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”
  
- So what does it mean to be born again?

4For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. 17Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ

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reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:14-21 NASB**

2Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

14But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:12-16 NASB**

14For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. **Romans 8:14-16 NASB**

4But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **Galatians 4:4-6 NASB**

4But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, 5He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. **Titus 3:4-7 NASB**

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God. **1 Peter 8-15 NASB**

8The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10Jesus answered and said to

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him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? 11Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 12If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15so that whoever will in Him have eternal life. **John 3:8-15 NASB**

- Jesus tells Nicodemus...” Don’t be amazed that I said to you that you must be born again.” (Even though this is very amazing information!)
  - Jesus tells him that it is like the blowing of the wind...you don’t know how and where the wind is blowing and going but you ‘hear the sound’ and you are affected by it...that is what it is like to be born of the Spirit.”
  - Nicodemus says... “How can this be?!”
  - Jesus says...” Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? If I tell you earthly things and you don’t get them, how can I tell you heavenly things? HE starts **v11** by saying, “Truly, truly” ...I am telling you the truth!
  - Jesus explains to Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be ‘lifted up’ like Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and all who believe in HIM will have eternal life.
- Nicodemus didn’t quite ‘get it’ in **John 3**, but he is heard of again in **John 7:32-53**. He defends Jesus, not by personal testimony of belief in Him, but by a point of Jewish Law.
  - Later in **John 19:38-42**, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, in a show of faith, got permission from Pilate to bury the body of Jesus. Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes for the burial, a sum worthy of a royal burial.
  - Nicodemus came around and was a true believer in Jesus by this time.

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21But he who

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practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” **John 3:16-21 NASB**

- Jesus speaks the best known verse in the New Testament.

For God so greatly loved *and* dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life. **John 3:16 AMPC**

- Weymouth **John 3:16...**” May not perish but have the Life of the Ages.”

For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation *and* be made safe *and* sound through Him. **John 3:17 AMPC**

- He who believes is not judged...judgement comes to those who refuse to believe.
  - Men loved darkness more than light.
  - He so loves that He gives...ongoingly.