

You Must Be Born Again!

Jn. 3:1–10 (ESV)

1 Now 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 him, "Truly, truly, 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, "Truly, truly, 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.'

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

John 2:23–25 (ESV)

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.

24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people

25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

We say we are Christians... we say we believe in Jesus.

The real issue is - Does Jesus believe us?

Mt. 7:21–23 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, (We lived for you) did

we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

This word “Again” is used several times. (Anothen - An’-o-then) – Another, again, all over, from the beginning.

Jesus uses the analogy of birth because it is simple to understand.

He was saying... “Nicodemus, just like you did absolutely nothing in your strength to be born the first time,

You must (An’-o-then) Be Born Again

I. You Must Admit!

Admit what?

That you need help to overcome your sinfulness!

Mt. 23:27–28 - “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Isa. 48:22 -But there is no peace for the wicked,” says the LORD.”

Proverbs 14:12 - “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

John 6:44 - “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...”

In John 19:38, 39, after Jesus was crucified, “...Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus.

John 12:3 - “Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

Luke 7:47 - Jesus said, "I tell you, her sins—which were many - have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love.

Mt. 19:23–24 - "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

John 19:38 tells us that Nicodemus purchased 75 lbs of a mixture of myrrh and aloes for Jesus.

That's about \$150,000 worth!

Jn. 3:2 - ..."Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

II. You Must Believe!

Believe what Jesus says even if it goes against your own deeply held beliefs!

That's really what repentance is!

Lk. 1:38 - "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have SAID."

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hint #1 - Unless a person is born of water and the Spirit.

Hint #2 - Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Vs. 6 - That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Jer. 13:23 – "Can the Ethiopian change his skin (color) or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil."

Genesis 6:3 - "Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is flesh; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

Flesh = fallen, corrupted, sinful.

Jer. 17:9 - "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

III. You Must Relinquish Control!

Jn. 3:8 - "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Mt. 24:9-13

9. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.
10. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,
11. and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
12. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
13. but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Mt. 10:22 - All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

1 Cor. 1:8-9

8. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Being "born again" is more about being a disciple of Jesus living in the Kingdom of God on this earth than it is about going to Heaven!

If you ain't saved by grace... You ain't saved at all!

Jn. 3:16-18

16. "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.

17. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.