

# The Gospel According to John

## “You Must Be Re-Born”

John 3:1-15



## John 3:1-3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this 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.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

# John 3:4-8

Nicodemus 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?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The 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.”

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If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

# John 3:13-15

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but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.  
As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;  
so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

# Main Idea

Belonging to God's kingdom requires a fundamental change of identity that results from a spiritual re-birth through the gospel and that produces the fruit of a new life.

# Background

Who was Nicodemus?

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Why did he come at night?

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**You Must Be Re-Born**

The *necessity* of re-birth



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# Grave Importance

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# What is this re-birth?

This re-birth is the resurrection  
of the soul, the creation of the  
new person, the birth experience  
of the child of God.

# **The Necessity of Re-Birth**

It is essential for seeing.

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Inability to see is an inability to  
understand and believe.



**John 12:39-40**

For this cause they could not believe,  
for Isaiah said again, He has blinded their eyes,  
and He hardened their heart;  
lest they see with their eyes,  
and perceive with their heart,  
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Re-birth is a pre-requisite for  
understanding and faith!

# **The Necessity of Re-Birth**

It is essential for seeing.

It is essential for belonging.

**John 3:4-5**

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“How can a man be born when he is old?

He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s  
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# This is parallel to “born again”!

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and the Spirit **he cannot enter into the**  
**kingdom of God.**

Entrance into the kingdom required  
that one belong to the King.

**This required a fundamental  
change of identity!**

# What identity change is needed?

**John 1:12-13**

“But as many as received Him,  
to them He gave the right to become children of God,  
even to those who believe in His name, who were born,  
not of blood nor of the will of the flesh  
nor of the will of man, but of God.”

# We must be made children!

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**John 3:5-6**

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

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



# Physical Birth

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and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

It is not physical birth but spiritual birth that qualifies us for belonging in the covenant community.

You must be made to belong to  
God by a re-birth that is of God's  
doing and not your own!

# You Must Be Re-Born

The necessity of re-birth

The *instrument* of re-birth



# **The Instrument of Re-Birth**

The Spirit of God

John 3:6-8

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Do not be amazed that I said to you,  
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it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not  
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# This must be done by the Spirit

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Re-birth is not brought about  
by human will but by the  
sovereign will of God.

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**SO is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”**

It is the Spirit of God  
by the will of God who causes  
you to be born again!

# The Instrument of Re-Birth

The Spirit of God

He does this through the Word of God:  
the Gospel

John 3:5

“Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of** water  
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**What is this water?**

# What is the Water?

Ezekiel 36:25-26

“Then **I will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

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And I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”

Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’”

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# What is the Water?

James 1:18

In the exercise of His will **He brought us forth**  
**by the word of truth**, so that we would be  
a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

1 Peter 1:23

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

# What is the Water?

Titus 3:5

He 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**.

Ephesians 5:25-26

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her **by the washing of water with the word**.



Regeneration is clearly tied to washing with water, and the washing is done by the Spirit *with the Word*, that is, with the gospel.

**Romans 10:17**

So faith comes from hearing,  
and hearing by the word of Christ.

# You Must Be Re-Born

The necessity of re-birth

The instrument of re-birth

## The fruit of re-birth



# **The Fruit of Re-Birth**

A new life of faith

# The issue is faith!

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# Faith and new life?

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This is not an indefinite,  
conditional statement!

Faith is a gift of God that is the first fruit  
of the new life generated by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:1-8**

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...  
but God...made us alive together with Christ...  
for by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God.**

This new life of faith is a fruit  
producing life.

**Matthew 7:16-17**

You will know them by their fruits.  
Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes  
nor figs from thistles, are they?  
So every good tree bears good fruit,  
but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

## **Ephesians 5:8-9**

You were formerly darkness, but now you are Light  
in the Lord; walk as children of Light—  
for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness  
and righteousness and truth.

# **The Fruit of Re-Birth**

A new life of faith

**A lasting life of love**



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# What's love got to do with it?

John 17:3

**This is eternal life**, that they may know You,  
the only true God, and Jesus Christ  
whom You have sent.

# Eternal life is knowing God!

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***Knowing God is loving God!***

Eternal life is the ever-lasting  
experience of an ever-expanding  
knowledge of God leading to  
ever-increasing delight in God!

# Conclusion

What must you do then?

Continue turning away from yourself  
and continue believing the gospel!