

Series: John

Title: Born of Water and the Spirit  
Text: John 3:4-8(Read Vs. 1-8)

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn to the gospel of John. The gospel of John chapter 3. We will be looking at verses 4 through 8; but I would like to begin reading at Vs. 1 in order to keep the content in mind.

We are looking at the story of Nicodemus. A story, which tells us, what is lacking in much of Christian teaching in this day and age. And that is, that some how a person can say and do certain things and thereby be called a Christian. But, Jesus wipes all of that thinking away in this conversation with this very religious man, Nicodemus. And Jesus tells him that in order to be a Christian and experience eternal life you must be born again. Dear friends, this is a tremendous passage, and I pray it will bless your hearts this morning as we look at this whole concept of the new birth.

John chapter 3 beginning with Vs. 1. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word? (Read John 3 1-8) (Prayer)

(2) We are looking at some of the different ways that Jesus makes himself known to people.

(1) First, we saw how Jesus revealed his <sup>power</sup> deity when he changed the water into wine. (2) Now, secondly, we are looking at the way Jesus reveals himself to Nicodemus. <sup>Jesus is talking to</sup> ~~Jesus is talking to~~

*Nicodemus about the New Birth*

~~Nicodemus about the New Birth.~~ Last time together, we looked at the first principle of the new

birth. (1) And that was the need ~~or purpose~~ for the new birth. Jesus said in verses 1 through ~~3~~ 3 that there is a tremendous need to be born again, because if you are not, you will never see the Kingdom of God. A very important issue.

(2) Now, today, let's come to the second principle concerning the new birth. And that is: THE NATURE OF THE NEW BIRTH. How is the new birth described? What is it really like?

Several things, here, that I want you to understand.

(1) First of all, notice in vs. 4, the concern of Nicodemus. The concern of Nicodemus.

Nicodemus has basic two ~~problems~~ <sup>Concerns</sup>. (1E) The first ~~problem~~ <sup>Concern</sup> is the ~~problem~~ <sup>idea</sup> of age. He said, "How can a man be born when he is old?"

Nicodemus is an old man which is obvious from his question. But, let me ask you a question, ARE YOU EVER TO OLD TO GET SAVED? ...No Way!...You are never to old to <sup>Be</sup> born spiritually. But, his ~~problem~~ <sup>Concern</sup> was one of age.

(2E) The second ~~problem~~ <sup>Concern</sup> Nicodemus had was the ~~problem~~ <sup>idea</sup> of birth. He just couldn't understand how it could happen. "Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?..").

But, dear friends, it is not a matter of being born physically. It is a matter of being born spiritually. His ~~problem~~ <sup>Concern</sup> was how it happens. And so Jesus is going to deal with that ~~problem~~ <sup>Concern</sup>. He is going to tell Nicodemus how it happens and what exactly is the new birth.

(2D) <sup>So</sup> Secondly, Vs 5, notice the conditions for entering God's Kingdom. Jesus said, "Truly, truly"..<sup>(some folks like to repeat themselves.)</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

Dear friends, that is the condition. In order to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born of water and of the Spirit.

(1E) ~~So, first of all~~ <sup>O.K</sup>, what does it mean to be born of the water and of the spirit? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

There are basic four interpretations. You say, "Well, Pastor, why don't you save time and give us the correct ~~view~~ <sup>View</sup> and forget the other three?" Because if I did that, you would think of the other three and then miss the correct one. So, let's look at all four interpretations.

(1E) <sup>Some Folks Believe</sup> Number one, Jesus was talking about water baptism.

According to this interpretation, Jesus was saying that unless you are baptized in water you cannot be saved. Water baptism saved you. ~~This~~ <sup>This</sup> is a very popular view. But, we know that salvation is by faith. For by Faith you have been saved. Salvation has nothing to do with water baptism. So, this is not referring to water baptism.

40  
(4D) Now, the final thing that I want you to see concerning the nature of the new birth is this illustration of the new birth as the Holy Spirit works in your life. <sup>for this is</sup> The illustration of wind. *A Great illustration*

According to Vs 7, Jesus says, "Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again." A lot of folks marvel at all of this. And they are amazed that there is no other way. But, don't be amazed.

And here is an illustration concerning wind to help you see how the Holy Spirit works. Two things here.

(1E) Number one, the word "wind" in Vs 8 is the same Greek word for "Spirit." The Greek word maybe translated either "wind" or "spirit". Here it is correctly translated as "wind." But, you see, it is "wind" which is describing the Holy Spirit.

And here is the point. The wind blows where it wishes. Have you ever noticed that? You cannot predict the way the wind is going to blow. It is impossible.\* And the Bible says about the Holy Spirit that He goes where He wants to. When the Holy Spirit begins to work in your life, listen, you ought to thank God for that. That is your moment of tremendous opportunity. The Spirit is blowing where He wants to. And when He starts to work in your life, giving you that hungry and that desire to know Jesus personally, and the hungry to have your sins forgiven, and to know for certain that you are going to heaven...WOW!! At that moment is your greatest opportunity. Dear Friends, we really do need to listen and then respond to the power of the Holy Spirit...

(2F) But, secondly, Jesus says in Vs 8, "you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from. That is dealing with source. We fail to know the source of spiritual birth. I mean you can say all day long that it is the Holy Spirit. But, I cannot put Him into a test tube and see Him. But, I know it happens. I know that the moment I believe in Christ and accept His Word, The moment I confess my sin, at that moment the Holy Spirit makes me a new person in Christ Jesus. But, I can't tell you where it started or where it will end.

And that is why Jesus says in Vs 8 that you don't even know where it is going. You don't know the direction it is going.

*I had a* New Christians <sup>*says to me over*</sup> ~~often say~~, "I don't know where this Christian life is taking me." Well, neither do I. But, isn't it fun? What an adventure.

<sup>*Dear friend*</sup> ~~Now~~, I have been a Christian for 58 years. I look back over my life and all I can say is WOW! It is amazing to me to realize where the Holy Spirit has taken <sup>*Shirley and*</sup> me. It is amazing. And now <sup>*we are*</sup> here in UKiah

<sup>*now*</sup> And there is no telling where the Holy Spirit is going to take *me* in the future. But, I will tell you one thing...I can hardly wait.

The Holy Spirit is like the wind. And like the wind He goes where he wants to go.

"And as many as are the children of God, they are led by the Spirit of God," says the Bible. The Holy Spirit will led you and give you direction like you have never had before. And let me tell you, it is exciting.

Many times in life there are unknowns. You don't know what is going to happen next. And the things you plan often fall apart. And you wonder, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT....(RELAX.). The Holy Spirit blows where He wants to. OH! You may not know. But if you are a Christian, it is great to remember that you are under the controlling breath and power of "The wind of the Spirit." PRAISE GOD!

Let's Close with a word of Prayer

*You who have an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says!*

*58  
1976*