

John 3:1-10 – Born of Wind and Water

Introduction: Three Kinds of Faith

1. Saving Faith, Non-Saving Faith, Presumed Professing Faith (See John 2:23-25)
2. It is dangerous to presume you are Born Again!

Central Focus of Our Text: Jesus demands that we be born again. Being religious does not mean we are born again. New Birth is solely the work of God alone within the human soul in order to bring about spiritual sight and the ability to enter into Eternal Life (the Kingdom of God).

Religious Conviction Is Not New Birth (vv 1-4, 9-10)

1. Nicodemus was a Pharisee – Believed in the resurrection from the dead, the Law of God, Conservative
2. Nicodemus was a Ruler of the Jews – Part of the Sanhedrin
3. *He came by night* – Duality of Dark and Light in the Gospel of John is prevalent – Nicodemus protected his status
4. Nicodemus Saw Four Truths Concerning Jesus
 - a. Jesus is called a Rabbi – Jesus is worthy of Honor
 - b. Jesus is called a Teacher – He instructs on God's Will
 - c. Jesus Came from God – God sent Jesus
 - d. Jesus is a Miracle Worker – Jesus given credit for His power (not a myth, not explained away)
5. Nicodemus sees truth and agrees with what he sees in Jesus, but still stands condemned before God, not on way to Heaven
6. *It is possible to see God at work in Jesus and yet God not be at work in you!* (To see truth, yet be blind to the Kingdom)
7. The Kingdom of God – Synonymous with Eternal Life (see **verses 14-16; Matthew 19 – the Rich Young Ruler**)
8. Unless you are born again, you will not see Heaven
 - a. Nicodemus' Bloodline will not save Him (**John 1:12-13**)
9. Nicodemus' Sarcastic Response – He finds it incredible!
10. Jesus rebuked Nicodemus for not knowing the Truth!
 - a. Old Testament spoke of New Birth (**Dt 30:6, Jer 31:33**)
 - b. New Birth = Circumcision of the Heart, Regeneration by the Holy Spirit, Given a New Heart by God
 - c. Nicodemus is Blind and Dumb, UNABLE to understand: He is a Natural Man (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)

New Birth is Wrought by the Holy Spirit Alone (vv 5-8)

1. New Birth CREATES the ABILITY to enter eternal life
2. New Birth/Regeneration PRECEDES Salvation (Conversion)
 - a. Regeneration/Quickening → Conversion (Salvation)

3. New Birth = Born of Water and the Spirit
 - a. Errors on this Phrase:
 - i. Baptismal Regeneration – Saved by Baptism = a first century Jew (Nic.) would have no idea what this was
 - ii. Physical Birth (Water) and Spiritual Birth (the Spirit)
 - b. Simplest Explanation: Jesus teaches the Old Testament
 - i. Ezekiel 36:25-27 = Reference to cleansing by water, and newness by the Spirit residing within the believer
 - ii. A New Creation, New Man, New Heart = Reborn
 - iii. The Natural Man – UNABLE to obey, repent, trust God and submit to Him, love God, BOUND to Sin
4. The Inability of Lost, Natural Man – Flesh gives birth to Flesh! The Flesh availeth NOTHING!
 - a. You and I cannot WILL ourselves to God (**John 1:12-13**)
 - b. Flesh CANNOT accomplish New Birth – we cannot help God save us, or cooperate with God to get us saved
 - c. Who does the work in Ezekiel 36/John 1:13? God does!
5. New Birth = Born of Wind/ Gk: *Pneuma* (Spirit = *Pneuma*)
 - a. Four Truths Concerning the Wind/Spirit
 - i. The Wind/Holy Spirit blows where it wills; free to go where He wants to and to whom He wants to go
 - ii. The effects of the Wind/Holy Spirit can be Seen: The Spirit awakens and transforms people
 - iii. The Origin of the Wind is Unknown: You cannot determine or create the movement of the Holy Spirit
 - iv. The Destination of the Wind is Unknown: You cannot determine or choose to tell the Spirit how to move
 - b. The Wind/Holy Spirit is Mysterious – You cannot Control the Wind, Meaning you cannot Control the Holy Spirit
 - c. You cannot Decide what the Wind Does, nor the Spirit
6. The Free Will of the Holy Spirit
 - a. He blows freely to wherever and to whomever He wills
 - b. You cannot decide or cause the Spirit to bring about New Birth = He causes New Birth Freely based on His own will
 - c. New Birth is not by our will, but by God's (**Rom 9:16**)
7. The Effects of the Spirit's Will
 - a. Makes the Blind See Eternal Life, the Dumb to Understand
 - b. He moves the Will of man to embrace Jesus as Savior
 - c. He begins the Work of Eternal Life and Finishes the Work

Responses to the Freedom of the Spirit in New Birth (vv 9-10)

1. Mystified – Nicodemus
2. Anger or Sadness – *I want Control of the Wind! I make the decisive response in my life, not God*
3. Delight and Joy – *New Affection, New Allegiance!*