

BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 6

JESUS TELLS A RULER HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN



John 3 v 1 - 8, 14 - 21, 36

Jesus teaches Nicodemus

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "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."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born

again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?", Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at My saying, 'You must be born again.' 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."

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

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. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Something to do

A. Fill in the blanks with the right word from the story.

- Nicodemus was a _____ of the Jews (v 1). He came to Jesus _____ (v 2). [Jesus is interested in every man - poor or rich, educated or ignorant.]
- Nicodemus thought Jesus was a _____ who has come from God. (v 2)
- Jesus said that to even *see* the kingdom of God, a man must be _____ (v 3).
- A man cannot enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of _____ *and* the _____ (v 5). [To Nicodemus, water meant cleansing. In Part 2 (in *Living Waterfall* Issue 24) we saw that John the Baptist baptized with water as people confessed their sins and turned from their sins (repentance). Jesus came to baptize with the Holy Spirit and to give people new life. To enter the kingdom of God, we must be willing to turn from our sins as well as receive the life of God's Spirit into our hearts.]
- Flesh gives birth to _____ (v 6). ["Flesh" refers not only to our physical bodies, but also to the human desires of our self (Romans 8 v 8, 9).]
- But the Spirit gives birth to _____ (v 6). [When our bodies are born of our earthly parents, we, too, have earthly bodies. When our spirits are born of God, we, too have a spirit that is alive and able to understand spiritual things of God (1 Corinthians 2 v 12, 14).]
- The Son of man (Jesus) had to be lifted up (crucified on a cross) just like _____ lifted up the _____ in the desert (v 14).
- The reason Jesus came was because God _____ the world. Whoever believes in Jesus will not _____, but have eternal _____ (v 16).
- God didn't send His Son into the world to _____ the world (though He will judge the world one day); He sent His Son to _____ the world (v 17).
- A person who believes in Jesus is not _____. A person is condemned only when he doesn't _____ in Jesus (v 18).

- Light has come into the world, but men loved _____ instead of _____ because their deeds were _____. Jesus calls this "the _____." (v 19). [Verdict means results of eternal judgement and separation from God.]
- Whoever lives by the _____ comes into the light (v 21). [It is not the man that does *good* that comes to the light. "...there is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3 v 12). The man that does truth is the man who confesses the truth of his sin and receives God's cleansing. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1 v 9).

B. Underline these verses in Part 6 (or write them on small cards) and memorize them: John 3 v 16 and John 3 v 36.

What it Means to Be Born Again

To be born again is to be born "from above," to start life over, to have a *different* beginning. Natural birth makes one a member of the human family. Spiritual birth makes one a member of God's family. The Spirit works in us and we see outward changes. For example, a person who has stolen doesn't steal anymore. It is just like when the wind blows. We can't see the wind, but we can see what it does.

A person whose spirit has not been born of God is spiritually "dead" (Ephesians 2 v 1, 5). Cleansing from sin comes first by the death of Christ and the death of

our old way of life. Then the Spirit makes us alive with new life - Christ's resurrection life. Both are necessary to enter into God's kingdom. New birth takes place when the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Jesus Himself) actually enters and lives in our bodies. "And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." (Romans 8 v 9b)

We inherit Christ's nature (2 Peter 1 v 4): new attitudes, a new power of our wills, a new mind to understand Scripture.

Are you like Nicodemus? Perhaps you have always been a

religious person. Or a person who obeys all the laws. Perhaps you are even a leader. But have you ever been born again from above by God's Holy Spirit, so that you are a new creation? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5 v 17). If you are not "born again," why not come to Jesus right now, like Nicodemus did? Ask Jesus to come into your life, so that you can have a new life and be part of God's family. "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5 v 12).



Long before, when the children of Israel were living in the wilderness under their leader, Moses, they grumbled and spoke bad things against God and against Moses: They complained about the way God was providing for them. So God sent serpents (snakes) among the people to bite

Moses in the Wilderness

them. Many people died. The people came to Moses and confessed their sin. They begged Moses to pray that God would take away the serpents. God answered their prayer in a different way. He told Moses to make a serpent of bronze and put it on a pole. Whoever looked at this bronze serpent, even though he had been bitten by a deadly snake, when he saw the serpent, he would live. (This story is found in Numbers 21 v 4 - 9)

Sin is like the bite of a deadly snake. We, too, will die unless we look to Jesus, who became sin for us (though He Himself

never sinned). Many perished in the wilderness. Only those who looked were healed. Jesus warned Nicodemus that he, too, would perish if he did not look to Jesus to receive new life.

As men looked at the "dead" serpent and lived, they also must look at the One who takes the sin of the world upon Himself, crucified on a cross, (John 12 v 32, 33). **Look and live!** They didn't need to understand "how" it healed them to look at the serpent of bronze. All they had to do was just obey in faith. And it worked!

Look and live, my brother, live! Look to Jesus now and live;

Coming to the Light

When we come to Christ, our sin is exposed because Jesus is the true light (*John 1 v 9*). Darkness hides the truth, but the light shows how things really are.

The one who chooses not to come to the light of God has chosen to keep his sins and not allow God to change him. Sinful man is *already* headed for hell. He needs Christ to escape. Those without Jesus are under God's wrath (anger) now (verse 36), but the one who receives Christ begins the same life he will have in heaven - God's

eternal life. **"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."** (*1 John 1 v 5 - 7*)

When a man wants to be holy, he is willing to have his sins exposed and forgiven. So, coming to Christ is a

life and death matter. Your destiny depends on what you do with Christ. Your destination depends on what you do with the light. Do you come to it? Or do you hide from it?



**FAITH + GOD'S WORD
(JESUS) = ETERNAL LIFE LW**

To be born-again is as easy as A, B, C

A - ACCEPT

Accept the fact that you are a sinner

Romans 3 v 23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

B - BELIEVE

John 3 v 36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

C - CONFESS

Romans 10 v 9 + 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

WHAT MUST YOU DO:

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you (on the Cross) and rose from the dead.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and take control of your life. (Receive Him as your Saviour and Lord).

WHAT TO PRAY:

DEAR FATHER,
I KNOW THAT I AM A SINNER AND NEED YOUR FORGIVENESS. I BELIEVE THAT CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS. I AM WILLING TO TURN FROM MY SINS. I NOW INVITE JESUS CHRIST TO COME INTO MY HEART AND LIFE AS MY PERSONAL SAVIOUR. I AM WILLING, WITH GOD'S HELP, TO FOLLOW AND OBEY CHRIST AS THE LORD

DID YOU ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL SAVIOUR? YES NO

YES NO

Date: _____

IF YOU REALLY MADE JESUS YOUR LORD (KING), YOU MUST START ACTING LIKE IT.

1. Read your Bible everyday to get to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day (in your own words).
3. Find a church and / or a Bible Study (fellowship) where the Bible is taught as the complete Word of God and is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Christ.
5. Follow Christ's example and be

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