

## You Must Be Born Again John 3:1-8

### **The SUBJECT: “Born Again” v.3, 7**

#### 1. The New Birth

- “Born”  
-Gk. word: **γεννηθῆ** from **γεννάω** to be born or to be begotten; to come into existence
- “Again”  
-Gk. word means either “again” or “from above” Ref. John 3:31  
-Idea: This birth is something that is supernatural. It comes from God (not from man).
- “Kingdom of God” Biblically, here it is synonymous with “eternal life”

→ **Summary: “Born” + “Again/From Above” = “Eternal Life”**

- See John 1:12-13; Ref. 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3, 23

#### 2. Clarification of the new birth... what it is NOT...

#### 3. Clarification of the new birth... Jesus gives an illustration. v.5-6

- There are several interpretations of v.5-6: “Born of water and the Spirit...”
  - i.) Physical birth and spiritual birth.  
-Water refers to physical birth (amniotic fluid), Spirit refers to spiritual birth
  - ii.) Baptism  
-Water refers to baptism—which is symbolic of new spiritual life.  
-I.e., The inward reality of spiritual birth will be demonstrated by outward evidence (via baptism).
  - iii.) An explanation of spiritual life  
-Water refers to cleansing; Spirit refers to power.  
-I.e., When you are born again, you are spiritually washed and given power (the Holy Spirit).
  - iv.) An illustration of how eternal life is communicated  
-Water refers to the Word of God, Spirit refers to the work of God’s Spirit.  
-I.e., Word of God + Spirit of God at work = new birth in a person’s heart

### **The AUDIENCE: “You” v.1-2, 10**

#### 1. Nicodemus.

- A Pharisee. v.1
- A ruler of the Jews. v.1
- A teacher of Israel. v.10

#### 2. Jesus’ responses are intentionally general and open to everyone. v.3, 5, 7

#### 3. Greater context of Scripture tells us the audience is for all sinners. I.e., all of us!

- Luke 5:31-32: And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
- Hebrews 7:25: Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him.

### **The NECESSITY: “Must” v.7**

- It is necessary. v.3: Unless...
- John 14:6

### **The INABILITY: “Be” v.8**

- We don’t make ourselves be born physically or spiritually. This is something that is done to you.
- William Ernest Henley’s poem *Invictus*: “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.” WRONG!
- We cannot make ourselves be born again. But we can ask God to make us born again...

Whatever happened to Nicodemus? John 19:39