

Born Again, From Above (background of John 3:16)

A leading Pharisee visited Jesus. Jesus was not impressed.

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus,
who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.
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."

At once, Jesus made a shocking statement: be born again

In reply, Jesus declared,
"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God
unless they are born again (from above)."

Nicodemus questioned this as impossible, even ridiculous

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked.
"Surely they cannot enter a second time
into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you,
no one can enter the kingdom of God
unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Jesus explained this is only accomplished by the Spirit

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
You should not be surprised at my saying,
'You must be born again (from above).'

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."

Still Nicodemus wondered how, and Jesus questioned him

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.
"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus,
"and do you not understand these things?
Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know,
and we testify to what we have seen,
but still you people do not accept our testimony.



*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." John 3:8*



Only those born from above are saved

Religious practices are not sufficient
Efforts to achieve righteousness will finally fail
Only radical faith in Jesus can bring our salvation

What is the evidence of rebirth?

A clear conviction of personal desperate need
A total dependence on faith in Christ alone
Obedience to Jesus as Lord over all of life

God saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:5-6

The Commands of Jesus

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul
and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Portions of Matthew 22:37-38



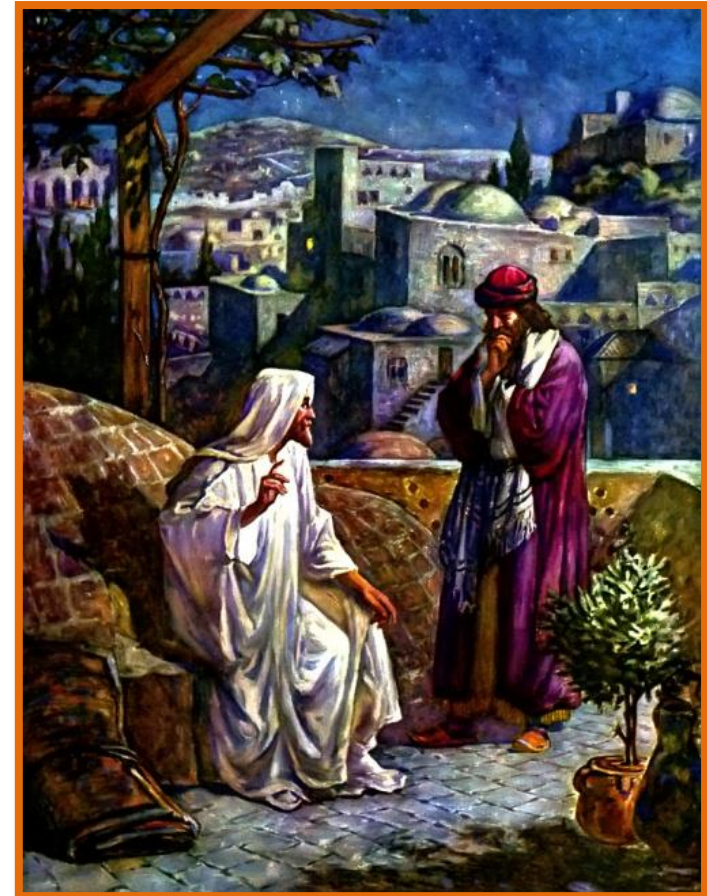
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Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and said,
"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God."

John 3:2a