

The Gospel of John

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise over a large body of water, with sunbeams breaking through a cloudy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water and illuminating the clouds with a golden glow. The foreground shows a dark, silhouetted hillside with some vegetation. The background features rolling hills and a distant town or city.

5. Nicodemus and the new birth

The Gospel of John – Chapter 2

“When I see **the blood**, I will pass over you...”
(Exodus 12:13)

➤ **The Passover**

➤ **The Temple scandal**

“Zeal for **Your House** has consumed Me.”
(Psalm 69:9)

➤ **God with His people**

In Him you also are being built together
into **a dwelling place for God** by the Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:22)

The Gospel of John – Chapter 2

To trust in,
commit to

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in His name** when they saw **the signs** that He was doing.

But Jesus on His part **did not entrust Himself to them**, because He knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

To trust in,
commit to

(John 2:23-25)

The Gospel of John – Chapter 3

Let's listen to this
vitally important conversation...

Now there was a man of the Pharisees
named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,
“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God,
for no one can do these signs that You do
unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered him,
“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him,
“How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb
and be born?”

(See John 3:1-4)

Jesus answered,

“Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to Him,

“How can these things be?”

(See John 3:5-9)

Now let's go back
and try to understand...

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night...

Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.

Why?
So as not to be seen?
For an uninterrupted conversation?

Nicodemus believes he has some understanding of Jesus.

If the Lord had not responded to his opening statement, what might he have said next?

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

The Lord Jesus says that no one will see the kingdom of God without being “born again”.

*Truly, truly,
I say to you,
unless one is born again
he cannot see
the kingdom of God.*

(See John 3:3)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

Despite all his devotion and study, Nicodemus does not understand what Jesus has said to him.
What need is there for a new birth?
It sounds quite ridiculous to him.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

This a parallel statement.
The essential new birth is
“of **water** and the **Spirit**”.
Seeing the kingdom is equal
to **entering** the kingdom.

*Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born
of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter
the kingdom of God.*

*I will sprinkle clean **water** on you,
and you shall be clean...
And I will give you a new heart,
and a new **spirit** I will put within you....
(See Ezekiel 36:24-27 – also Titus 3:5)*

(See John 3:5-6)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

The new birth refers to a new life that originates from the Spirit. It is the beginning of **spiritual** life.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(See John 3:5-6)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews.

For a man like Nicodemus, this was quite shocking

The new birth is something that the Holy Spirit does. It is not something we can do or even easily understand.

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

(See John 3:7-8)

The conversation continues...

How can these things be?

The new birth is in the OT Scripture.
(Ezekiel 36:25-27, Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Jesus answered him,
“Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Truly, truly, I say to you,
We speak of what we know,
and bear witness to what we have seen,
but you do not receive our testimony.

To whom does ‘we’
and ‘our’ refer?

‘You’ is plural

“If I have told you earthly things
and you do not believe,
how can you believe
if I tell you heavenly things?”

“No one has ascended into heaven except
He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.”

(John 3:9-14)

How can
these things be?

See Numbers 21:5-9

“And as Moses **lifted up**
the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**,
that whoever **believes in Him**
may have eternal life.”

The **crucified** Saviour

(John 3:14-15)

*“And I, when I am **lifted up from the earth**,
will draw all people to myself.”* He said this to
show by **what kind of death** He was going to die.

(John 12:32-33, also John 8:28)

What follows may be John's commentary
or they are the words of the Lord Jesus...

For God so **loved** the world,
that He **gave** His only Son,
that whoever **believes** in Him
should not **perish**
but have **eternal life**.



For God **did not** send
His Son into the world
to **condemn** the world,
but in order that
the world might be
saved through Him.

Trusts in, relies on,
commits to...

Whoever **believes in Him**
is not condemned,
but whoever does **not believe**
is condemned already,
because he has **not believed**
in the name of the only Son of God.

(John 3:18)

What lies
beneath
unbelief?

And this is the judgment:

the light has come into the world,
and people **loved the darkness**
rather than **the light**
because **their works were evil.**

For everyone who does evil
hates **the light** and
does not come to **the light**,
lest his works
should be exposed.



But whoever does what is true
comes to **the light**,
so that it may be clearly seen
that his works
have been carried out in God.

(John 3:19-21)

More from John...

*All authority
in heaven and on earth
has been given to Me.
(Matthew 28:18)*

The Father loves the Son
and has given all things into His hand.

Trusts in, relies on,
commits to...

Whoever **believes** in the Son has **eternal life**;

Disbelieves, rejects

whoever **does not obey** the Son
shall not see life,
but **the wrath of God** remains on him.

(John 3:35-36)

Because of sin that
has not been forgiven

For God so **loved** the world,
that He **gave** His only Son,
that whoever **believes** in Him
should not **perish**
but have **eternal life**.