

The Necessity to be Born Again

The Life of Jesus

John 3:1–4 (NIV)

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³ Jesus replied, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**”

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Thesis:

No one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven without being born again.

Objectives:

- I. Jesus recognized having come from God
- II. The Kingdom of God are for those who are born again
- III. What does it take to be born again

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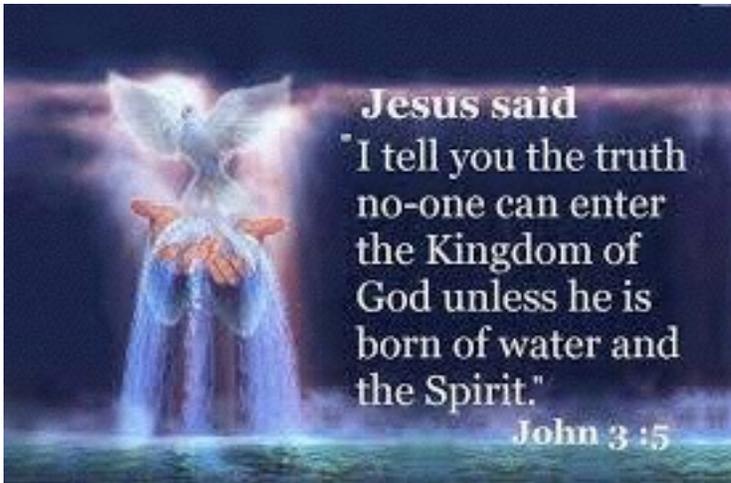
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Introduction:

The preparing of Jesus for ministry has gone very well. So much so that He is creating interests in what He is teaching. People are asking about Him and passing it on to others. The question has to be on their minds, is He the One we’ve been waiting for? However, men have had a long time to consider what type of Savior they prefer. Many have played out their salvation in their minds. They cannot wait to receive what they have been dreaming of for so long.



As the preparation for Jesus ministry is about to be under way full force a great question is posed to Him. Nicodemus a member of the ruling party comes desirous to know what it will take to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus answers his question because He knows what is on our minds. By revelation of the Spirit of God we now know as well what is necessary for us to go to Heaven and be part of the Kingdom of God.

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Sermon:

I. Jesus recognized having come from God

John 3:1–2 (NIV)

¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

- A. Notice that there is a stated consensus that Jesus clearly comes from God.
- B. He is recognized as coming from God because of the signs He has done.
- C. Peter used this same logic to confirm Jesus to Cornelius, which ushered in the Gentiles into the Church.

Acts 10:34–38 (NIV)

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

- D. Peter earlier used similar thinking on the day of Pentecost to confirm Jesus as from God.

Acts 2:22 (NIV)

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

- E. The signs did Jesus were so numerous that they all could not be written down.

John 20:30–31 (NIV)

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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John 21:25 (NIV)

²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

F. Jesus being sent to God tells Nicodemus what is necessary for one to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

II. The Kingdom of God makes up the born again

- A. The born again are not just a move of the Spirit but of the water and the Spirit.
- B. That water and Spirit speaks to being Baptized. A washing your sins away, a new birth.

John 3:5 (NIV)

⁵ Jesus answered, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.**”

- C. Saul was on the outside of the Kingdom and was told he needed to be baptized. Ananias sent by God tells Saul to get baptized.

Acts 22:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

- D. Paul was certainly not saved for what he had done. So he requires a new beginning, a new birth. You must be born again.

Titus 3:5 (NIV)

⁵ he 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,

- E. Water and Spirit as commanded by Jesus makes it a necessity to be born again.

III. What does it take to be born again

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A. Being Born again is like being brand new

1. New Family
2. New Leader
3. New Ways
4. New Destiny
5. New Teaching
6. New Commands
7. New Life
8. New Creation
9. New Covenant
10. New Self
11. New Attitude
12. New Beliefs

B. You do not achieve being new by doing what is old.

C. Just like being born a first time doesn’t happen by wishing and praying, something is required from man to do. Also there is something to do in order to be born again.

D. The new birth takes both water and Spirit

1. Not two births (born of water and born of the Spirit)
2. But one birth (born of water and the Spirit)

Titus 3:5 (NIV)

⁵ he 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,

E. The new birth is a washing of regeneration (water)

F. And renewing of the Holy Spirit (Spirit)

G. An obvious reference to baptism

1. "There can be no doubt, on any honest interpretation of the words, that gennethenai ek hudatos (born of water) refers to the token or outward sign of baptism, gennethenai ek pneumatos (born of Spirit) to the thing signified, or inward grace of the Holy Spirit. All attempts to get rid of these two plain facts have sprung from doctrinal prejudices, by which the views of expositors have been warped." - Alford (Greek Testament)

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2. "By water, here, is evidently signified baptism." - Albert Barnes
3. "Baptism by water, into the Christian faith, was necessary to every Jew and Gentile that entered into the kingdom of the Messiah." - Adam Clarke
4. "There is not any one Christian writer of any antiquity in any language but what understands it of baptism....I believe Calvin was the first that ever denied this place to mean baptism. He gives it another interpretation, which he confesses to be new." - William Wall (History of Infant Baptism)

H. The new birth occurs when one is baptized, for in that simple act of faith they are born not only of the water out of which they arise, but also born of the Spirit (regenerated) by the working of God at that moment

Colossians 2:12–13 (NIV)

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

- I. The first birth requires a seed to come about and so does the second birth
- J. One is born again by the Word

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1. The incorruptible Word that is preached

1 Peter 1:25 (NIV)

²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

2. The instrument through which the Spirit convicts the sinner

John 16:7 (NIV)

⁷ **But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.**

3. Which includes the command to be baptized

Mark 16:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**

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Acts 2:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

K. Jesus sanctifies and cleanses His church by the washing of water by the word

Ephesians 5:26 (NIV)

²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

1. The "washing of water" is another allusion to baptism - Jameison, Fausset, Brown
2. Yet baptism must be administered in conjunction with the Word of God to be of benefit

Conclusion:



Nicodemus recognized Jesus as coming from God. He was told by the one come from God that in order to go to Heaven, you must be born again. Do you understand the necessity?

This morning everything is here needed for a new birth to occur. The water, the Spirit, and the Word of God. Just like it was on the day the Church began on the day of Pentecost, all coming together when one responds to the gospel in baptism

Acts 2:37–39 (NIV)

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other

apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy

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Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

John 3:7 (NIV)

⁷ **You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’**



Invitation:

HEAR

Luke 6:47-49 (ESV)

⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

BELIEVE

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

James 2:24 (ESV)

²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

REPENT

Acts 17:30 (ESV)

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Acts 26:20 (ESV)

²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

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CONFESS

Matthew 10:32–33 (ESV)

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

BE BAPTIZED

Romans 6:3–4 (ESV)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1 Peter 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

REMAIN STEADFAST

Galatians 5:4 (ESV)

⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV)

¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.