

Born of the Spirit

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I. Introduction. Text: John 3:1-6.

II. Nicodemus's encounter.

A. Nicodemus's identity.

1. He was a Pharisee, part of a group that devoted their entire life to following the Ten Commandments.
2. The Pharisees invented laws to keep them from violating the Ten Commandments.

B. Nicodemus regarded Jesus as a good teacher because of His ability to do miracles.

C. Jesus' response was to call to attention that one must be born again and from above with divine origins.

1. The result is a new creation.
2. We are transferred to a new kingdom belonging to God.
3. It is what we are that makes us wrong.
4. What prevents people from being born again is that they do not want to admit that there is something wrong with them.
5. God imparts life through the new birth to an individual.
6. If you do not have God's life, you cannot please Him.
7. When you get in touch with the life of God things will be different.

D. Never take truth based on a single witness—the Father and Moses' lifting up the serpent are both witnesses to Jesus' testimony.

E. All who received Jesus became God's children by His power alone.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to be "born again?"

2. On what basis was Jesus able to establish His authority before Nicodemus? Why is this significant?

3. Have you received the life imparted by God as described in the message? If so, what was your experience? If not, what is keeping you from having that experience today?
