

## The New Birth, John 3:1-21

**Background:** We learned about Pharisees, necessity of the New Birth, and the Kingdom of God, and miracles.

- I. **Introduction: There is a connection to the last section of chapter 2**
  - A. John 2:23-24 reveals Jesus' Deity – He knows men's hearts + thoughts!
  - B. Thus, Jesus knows Nicodemus' heart, and what his real concern is.
- II. **Jesus dialogue with Nicodemus (John 3:1-10) Supernatural Spiritual Regeneration**

### A. Entrance Requirements to the K. of God (1-3)

1. "N" inquiry (1-2). Keep in mind he is a **PHARISEE!!! A Ruler of the Jews!**
  - a. He was drawn to Christ (John 6:44)
  - b. He came in secrecy to avoid implications of open association with Jesus.
  - c. He acknowledged Jesus ONLY as teacher from God
2. Jesus used the **Sword of the Spirit** approach. **"EXCEPT a man BE BORN AGAIN...He CANNOT."**
  - a. Jesus knew "N" real question. **"How do I get into the K. of God?"**
  - b. "N" needs a **spiritual transformation and regeneration** by the Holy Spirit
  - c. Something BRAND NEW! He needs new Spiritual life. (Eph. 2:5)
  - d. New Birth – an act of God, whereby new life is imparted to the believer (II Cor 5:17; Tit 3:5; I Pet. 1:3) γεννάω ( beget, born, bring); ἄνωθεν (above, anew).
  - e. "N" wants the "K of God" more than anything. Participation in the millennial "K" at the end of the age (Is. 11:1-6) was eagerly anticipated by religious Jews. They were waiting for the KINGDOM regeneration, but missed the prerequisite of **PERSONAL regeneration**.

Too much reliance  
today on:

Pray this prayer,  
Go forward  
Make a decision  
Commit to Jesus

How do I know?

By people's  
responses!!!

### B. Jesus' Clarification of Regeneration (4-8)

1. **"N" question.** (v-4) "Second time into the womb?" Two thoughts:
  - a. First, incredulous comment caused by confusion – literal implications? Or, did Jesus imply a **metaphor** for something else? "N" did not get it.
  - b. Second, "N" possibly grasped the **"SCOPE"** of this renewal, but admits that his **ENTIRE LIFE's philosophical underpinnings** would need to go through a transformation. He saw that as ENTIRELY impossible. Presuppositions, habits of thought, ways of acting, social ties, ancestral and traditional customs, were inhibitors.
2. **Of Water & of the Spirit (v-5)** Cleansing in the OT idea. (Ez. 36:24-27) This "water" is used figuratively in the OT. It always refers to **renewal and spiritual cleansing.** ( Ps. 51:7-10; Is 44:3; Joel 2:28) Jesus made reference to spiritual

"N" was in  
shock. What  
about all my law  
keeping?

washing and cleansing accomplished by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God at the moment of salvation (Eph 5:26).

3. **Born of flesh is flesh (v-6) Natural** (soulish, looking earthward) man, mind, intellect, emotion, will, disposition of unregenerate humanity. Being born of the flesh is the being born into this world, with all the privations and depravations, evil tendencies and passions of a fallen humanity; as opposed to the spiritual man – infusion of the Life of God into man, which is entirely antithetic to the birth of the flesh.
4. **Marvel not! (v-7)** The first assertion by a bold antithesis between the birth of flesh producing nothing but flesh (however high its culture), and the birth of Spirit from the Spirit himself. **Do not be surprised!** “N” marveled at such representation, which took the heart out of all his previous works & training. “N” previously held hopes of earning access to the K. of God vanished into thin air!
5. **The mysterious works of the Spirit** of God (v-8) **Just as the wind can't be understood and controlled by man**, so is the Holy Spirit. But, His work is apparent by the end result. We see the changes produced, Men just now sinful become holy; the thoughtless become serious; the licentious become pure; the vicious, moral; the moral, religious; the prayerless, prayerful; the rebellious and obstinate, meek, mild, and gentle. But the Spirit-birth, like all the other operations of the Spirit, is hidden in God.

**C. Jesus' indictment of “N” (9-10)**

1. “N” third and final comment (v-9) Total bewilderment. **“How....?”**
2. Jesus accusation of **ignorance** (v-10)
  - a. “N” was a well known TEACHER of the people. Yet, he was ignorant of these spiritual truths. External religiosity has a deadening effect on spiritual perception.
  - b. He might have known the language of the prophets concerning circumcision of heart (Deut 30:6; Jer 4:4) and concerning a new heart and right spirit (Ezek 36:26,27; Ps 51:10); but the full bearing of these prophetic ideas were beyond his grasp. He did not connect these passages with Jesus imperative of the “NEW BIRTH.”

**D. Application: How many MILLIONS in today's Christianity have no understanding about the NEW BIRTH?**

**III. Jesus Discourse (John 3:11-21) Salvation, By GRACE through FAITH: BELIEVE!**

**Come back Next Week!!!**

Are YOU  
BORN  
From  
ABOVE ????