

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

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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**.

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

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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

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!!!

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