

Reproduction #5

Pray: Ask the Lord to teach you about the new birth.

Read: John 3:1-15

A spiritual birth for others is the goal of every witnessing believer. When a new birth occurs, spiritual reproduction has begun. It is important that you understand the process of producing spiritual children. Nicodemus was a religious leader, but he did not know how to be born again. Study the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus by answering the questions below.

Discover the process of new birth.

1. What inescapable condition did Jesus place upon those who wished to see the kingdom of God? (v.3)

A person may have vast religious knowledge and perform many good deeds, but unless he is reborn spiritually through faith in Jesus, he cannot enter God's kingdom.

2. What did Nicodemus think it meant to be born again? (v.4)

In verse 5, Jesus worded it a different way, trying to make the teaching clear.

3. How did Jesus describe the process of new birth? (v.5)

The meaning of this phrase “born of water and the Spirit” has long been debated, with some insisting that the “water” refers to water baptism. It does but it refers to the baptism of John, in which water was a symbol of repentance. Water baptism as we know it is an act of obedience not a means of salvation (Ephesians 2:8,9)

4. What is the meaning of Jesus statement, “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*”? (v.6)

The Contemporary English Version is even clearer- “*Humans give life to their children. Yet only God’s Spirit can change you into a child of God.*” John 3:6. It is impossible for us to relate with God in a physical manner because we are physically contaminated with sin, and our physical nature cannot comprehend important spiritual matters. It is only through the process of spiritual birth that God makes it possible for us to relate to Him, as we ought to.

5. Why is the new birth like the wind? (v.8)

This was actually a play on words. “Spirit” can also mean “breath” or “wind.” Wind is not something we can see, but we can see the effect it has. There is no test to prove that a Christian has the Holy Spirit, but the evidence is in the changed life of the individual.

7. Nicodemus asked, “How can these things be?” What reason did Jesus give for Nicodemus’s not being born again? (v.11)

8. Why was Jesus’ death on the cross like the serpent in the wilderness (vs.14-15)? You may wish to read Numbers 21:4-9.

Jesus was to be “lifted up” on the cross to die for our sins. Our faith in this will save us in the same way the Israelites of Moses’ day were saved when they looked upon the serpent that Moses fashioned. They had a desperate faith that God would heal them as He had promised.

Pray together; ask the Lord to help you realize the necessity of new birth for every man.

