

# *Gospel of John*

## (3.2) The New Birth Explained

### *John 3:3-15 (ESV)*

3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

### *Jesus teaches the teacher...3:3-3:15*

Being told to 'be born again', what's the stunned response? **3:3-4; Mark 17:27, 17**

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Why is this whole conversation so critical! **Rom.3:20; Gal.2:15-16; Eph.2:8-10; Titus 3:5**

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What does Jesus make clear to him? **3:5-6, 1:12-13**

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What is 'water and the Spirit' pointing to? **Deut.30:6; Jer.31:31-34; Ezek.11:18-24, 36:24-27**

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What is Jesus' response to Nicodemus' astonishment? **3:7 note 3:9-10; ICor.2:14**

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What's the point illustrated in **3:8?; Mark 4:26-29**

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What is Jesus saying in 3:11-12? **Earthly things, 3:3; heavenly, 1:1; Eph.1:4, IITim.1:9**

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Who is the only One qualified to speak of heavenly things? **3:13, 6:33, 51, 38, 8:42, 13:3**

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And then, what object lesson does Jesus use? **3:14a; Nu.21:5-9; Jn.8:28, 12:32, 34**

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And what is the *critical application*? **3:14b-15; Rom.10:9; ICor.1:21; ITim.1:16; IJn.5:13**

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### Jesus teaches the teacher...3:3-3:15

Being told to 'be born again', what's the stunned response? **3:3-4; Mark 17-27, 17**

**This is humanly impossible! Nothing I can do to obey. His salvation was based on works.**

Why is this whole conversation so critical! **Rom.3:20; Gal.2:15-16; Eph.2:8-10; Titus 3:5**

**Salvation by grace through faith, not works is the very heart of the Gospel. Critical!!**

What does Jesus make clear to him? **3:5-6, 1:12-13**

**The rebirth is spiritual, not physical! Like the physical, spiritual birth is not your work!**

What is 'water and the Spirit' pointing to? **Deut.30:6; Jer.31:31-34; Ezek.11:18-24, 36:24-27**

**Undoubtedly to Ez.36:24-27. Water is not baptism nor natural birth. It is cleansing.**

What is Jesus' response to Nicodemus' astonishment? **3:7 note 3:9-10; ICor.2:14**

**Don't marvel (wonder) at being born again! (as a teacher you should understand...)!**

What's the point illustrated in **3:8?; Mark 4:26-29**

**You can't see/explain the wind. Being born of the Spirit is similar. Powerful by unseen.**

What is Jesus saying in 3:11-12? **Earthly things, 3:3; heavenly, 1:1; Eph.1:4, IITim.1:9**

**We (Jesus, disciples, John) speak of earthly things; you don't believe. Heavenly things??**

Who is the only One qualified to speak of heavenly things? **3:13, 6:33, 51, 38, 8:42, 13:3**

**Only the One who descended from heaven! He is the only One qualified to speak, 3:12.**

And then, what object lesson does Jesus use? **3:14a; Nu.21:5-9; Jn.8:28, 12:32, 34**

**He refers to Moses lifting up the bronze serpent for Israel. Just looking (faith) healed!**

And what is the critical application? **3:14b-15; Rom.10:9; ICor.1:21; ITim.1:16; IJn.5:13**

**Even so, the Son of Man, Jesus, must be lifted up (cross). Believing in Him = eternal life!**