

The Path to a New Life

Read: John 3:1-21

Main Idea: Being born again through faith in Christ is not only essential for salvation, but it also empowers believers to live a life that reflects God's kingdom values.

Key Verses: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (**John 3:16, ESV**)

Key Principles:

- God invites people from all walks of life into a transformative encounter with Jesus, showing that spiritual birth begins with humility and curiosity.
- The new birth is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit which regenerates the heart and enables entrance into God's kingdom.
- Faith involves accepting heavenly truths amid earthly confusion to move beyond human understanding to divine revelation.
- Belief in Christ is rooted in his unique descent from heaven and his lifting up on the cross, mirroring the serpent in the wilderness as a means of healing and salvation.
- God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial gift of his Son, ensuring that believers escape condemnation and experience eternal life.
- Living in the light of truth exposes evil deeds while drawing believers into righteous living, reflecting God's judgment and grace in daily choices.

Discussion:

1. How does Nicodemus's nighttime visit to Jesus illustrate the initial steps toward spiritual birth, and what might this teach us about approaching Christ today?
2. In what ways does Jesus's explanation of being born of water and the Spirit challenge our reliance on human efforts for salvation? Share an experience where you've seen the Spirit's mysterious work.
3. When facing confusion about spiritual matters how can we embrace faith in Jesus's testimony about heavenly things?
4. Why is the Son of Man's descent and lifting up essential for belief, and how does this Old Testament imagery help us understand the role of faith in salvation?
5. How does resting in God's love, as shown in sending his Son, free us from fear of judgment and motivate us to share this truth with others?
6. What does it mean to live in God's light rather than darkness, and how can this truth empower our group to pursue holiness in practical ways?

Prayer:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's regenerating work that leads to faith and righteousness.
- Pray for:
 - Courage to believe in Christ fully, embracing his sacrifice as the path to eternal life.
 - That we will rest in God's impartial love and reject condemnation.
 - Boldness to live in the light, exposing sinful deeds and witnessing to others about new life in Jesus.

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John 3:1-21

- I. You can be born again. 3:1-8**
 - 1. Go to the Savior. 3:1-4
 - 2. Trust in the Spirit. 3:5-8

- II. You must believe in Christ. 3:9-15**
 - 1. Embrace faith in confusion. 3:9-12
 - 2. Embrace Christ through faith. 3:13-15

- III. You will belong to God. 3:16-21**
 - 1. Rest in God's love. 3:16-18
 - 2. Live in God's truth. 3:19-21

NEXT WEEK:
Better Together
Acts 2:42-47