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## GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

### JOHN 3

#### INTRODUCTION

##### JOHN 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup>“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup>“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”

# 3 STEPS TO LASTING CHANGE

1

(vv. 1-4)

*“Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’” (v. 3)*

For entry to this kingdom, racial inheritance, circumcision, energetic law-keeping, acts of piety or scriptural knowledge, avail nothing. What is needed is the receiving of a new spiritual life from God (cf. 1:12–14) through personal faith in Jesus himself as the one who had come from God (3:14f). **-BRUCE MILNE**

2

(vv. 5-12)

*“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” (v. 6)*

## New Testament Strategy:

- Convicted by the Spirit - **JOHN 16:8**
- Born of the Spirit - **JOHN 3**
- Sealed by the Spirit - **EPHESIANS 1**
- Bear fruit by the Spirit - **GALATIANS 5**
- Walk in the Spirit - **ROMANS 8**
- Pray in the Spirit - **EPHESIANS 6**
- Use the sword of the Spirit - **EPHESIANS 6**
- Use the gifts of the Spirit - **1 CORINTHIANS 12**
- Preach in the power of the Spirit - **ACTS 2**
- Led by the Spirit - **ROMANS 8**
- Comforted by the Spirit - **JOHN 16**
- Know the fellowship of the Spirit - **2 CORINTHIANS 13**

3

(v. 13-17)

*<sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”*

*<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*<sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

## Good News in a Tweet (v. 16)

- Greatest possible **POWER** - *For God*
- Greatest possible **PASSION** - *so loved*
- Greatest possible **PEOPLE** - *the world*
- Greatest possible **PRICE** - *that He gave*
- Greatest possible **PERSON** - *His one and only Son*
- Greatest possible **POTENTIAL** - *that whoever believes in him*
- Greatest possible **PROMISE** - *shall not perish but have eternal life*

## A Quick Guide to \_\_\_\_\_

*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1*

**THESSALONIANS 5:23**

- Reborn \_\_\_\_\_
- Renewed \_\_\_\_\_
- Repurposed \_\_\_\_\_

The Spirit is on the move, like a fresh spring breeze and no human family, tribe, organization or system can keep up with it. Opening the window and letting the breeze in can be very inconvenient, especially for the Nicodemuses of this world who suppose they have got things tidied up, labelled and sorted into neat piles. **-N.T. WRIGHT**