

The Holy Spirit Makes Us New

John 3:1-17

Taking it Home:

1. Review the story of Nicodemus. Have you been born again through faith in Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? How does your life give quantifiable evidence of this truth? If you have questions or concerns talk with your Growth Group leader, a pastor, or an elder. They would love to listen and help you find assurance of this truth.

Prayer Concerns:

The Story of Nicodemus

Regeneration – To give new life or revive; to grow new tissue that wasn't there before.

1. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are _____.
2. Spiritual practices and rituals do not bring the spirit to _____.
3. We become spiritually alive by _____ the Holy Spirit through faith in _____.
4. The Holy Spirit is with us _____ from the moment of salvation.

Blessings of a regenerated Spirit

1. New _____ as a _____ of God. [Galatians 4:4-7]
2. An _____ future that is _____. [Ephesians 1:13-14]
3. Growing _____ to _____ sin and honor God. [1 John 3:9]
4. Ability to _____ like God _____. [1 John 4:7-8]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. When you hear the words, “born again” what thoughts come to your mind? How do people in general perceive this phrase?

4. Before you came to faith in Christ, how would you describe your spirit? What were the desires, focus, and inclinations of your spirit? What changed when you were regenerated through faith in Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Digging Deeper:

Read John 3:1-17

1. What do we know about Nicodemus? What was his conclusion of Jesus? Why did Jesus see the need to talk to Nicodemus about being ‘born again’?

5. At times it can be confusing as to who resides within Christians. Is it Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? How do Acts 2:38, and John 14:16-20 help clarify this? If Jesus is currently at the right hand of the Father, what are we to make of passages like Romans 8:9? How does reading the context around this verse (Romans 8:1-11) help bring clarity?

2. What does Jesus mean by, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit?” How does this relate to being born again? Why does Jesus liken being ‘born of the spirit’ to the wind?

6. Review the section *Blessings of a Regenerated Spirit* on your sermon outline. What is most meaningful to you? What do you need to give more attention to?

3. Why could Nicodemus not understand the things that Jesus was speaking about? What things are unclear to those who do not have the Holy Spirit living within them?