

## What Does it Mean to be Reborn?

John 3:1-15

**One Must Resolve to Come to Christ (John 3:1-2)** The Pharisee- The Hebrew verb meant the “separated ones”. Josphus, the Jewish historian noted during the time of Herod the great that there were around 6,000 members of the Pharisees. They carried a lot of influence with the common people and middle class. Jesus often called them out for their hypocritical actions or appearing spiritual, yet being legalistic. Nicodemus wasn’t a regular Pharisee, but a ruler of Jews, which made him a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin governed Israel under the ultimate provision of the Roman government. With Nicodemus being part of the Sanhedrin, he would have had to secretly meet with Jesus so that no one would know. Regardless of who we are, we must resolve to come to Jesus with humility. Sometimes the most religious people are the ones who struggle to come to Jesus in humility. Regardless of what you’ve done, or haven’t done, Christ is the waiting, He is the answer!

**One Must Rightly Acknowledge Christ (John 3:2)** He is not just a teacher or a good man, but the Messiah, God incarnate, the only Savior. Three passages share crystal clear who Jesus is:

- a. Jesus is the only way to God. (John 14:6) “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- b. Salvation is exclusively through a saving relationship with Jesus. (Acts 4:12) “*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”
- c. This relationship is accomplished through trusting in Him alone for salvation. (Romans 10:9) “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

**One Must Reside in the Work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3-8)**

The phrase “water and spirit”- some interpret this to mean baptism by water and to be sealed by the Holy Spirit. Others interpret this to have more of an Old Testament meaning that would have been better understood by Nicodemus, referring to water and spirit, an Old Testament phrase symbolically displaying spiritual renewal and cleansing that are found in Numbers 19:17-19; Isa 4:4; Joel 2:28-29; and Zech. 13:1. The Holy Spirit does the work of salvation. Listen to Titus 3:5-6 “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”

**One Must Rest in the Incarnation of Christ (John 3:9-13)** It was God’s plan to come in the form of man, in order that He be our sacrifice. He loves us that much.

**One Must Receive the Work of the Cross (John 3:14-15)**

- a. Anyone who looked at the serpent was healed. (v.14) (Numbers 21:8-9) “And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze.”
- b. Anyone who looks toward the cross will be healed of sin and death. (vv. 14-15)