

## Living Word Fellowship Church

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### The New Life

John 3:4-8

#### Part III

#### A. Born of the Spirit:

1. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit – Merely following religious regulations does not purify us. In Nicodemus’s case, according to Paul, it only exposes sin (Romans 3:20).
2. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit – Water is a public reference to a repentant heart. A commitment to turn one’s life completely over to God (Romans 10:9) and the pouring of the Holy Spirit into their lives – regeneration (Titus 3:4-8).
3. That which is born of the flesh – Anyone who is born in a weak, fallen, corruptible state remains in that state. They cannot come out of that state on their own (John 6:44; Romans 3:10-12).
4. That which is born of the flesh – The flesh is a body of death (Romans 8:24); nothing good lies within it (Gal. 5:19-21). It is corruptible (Gen. 6:12; Gal. 6:8; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Romans 8:6-8) and must be transformed into a glorified body at the rapture (Phil. 3:20-21). So it cannot save itself.
5. Born of the Spirit – Anyone who has been regenerated is now radically and completely established into a new divine nature because God’s Spirit has quickened their spirit (Titus 3:4-8).
  - a) The child inherits the nature of the parents, and so does the child of God. We become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4). Nature determines appetite, which explains why the Christian has an appetite for the things of God (1 Peter 2:2–3). He has no desire to go back to the foul things of the world that once appealed to him (2 Peter 2:20–22). He feeds on the Word of God and grows into spiritual maturity (Heb. 5:11–14).<sup>1</sup>

#### B. Once Saved, We Have A New Life (vs. 7-8):

1. Do not be amazed – Christ tells Nicodemus not to be focused on his confusion, rather on his salvation.
2. You must be born again – In order to get God to enter a person (John 14:16-17), it is not going to be based on the law (vs. 2-3), it is only through a regeneration process of repentance and transformation of the Spirit of God. (2 Cor. 5:17)

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 295). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

3. Blows where it wishes – The wind continuously has a will of its own because it blows wherever it independently decides to blow.
- a) Comes from – We do not have complete knowledge of the location it is continuously coming from.
  - b) Going – We also do not continuously comprehend in what direction it is going.
    - The wind is unpredictable and uncontrollable (see Eccles 8:8; cf. Eccles 1:6, 8, 14, 17; 2:11, 17, 26; 4:4, 6, 16; 6:9). The Spirit was symbolized as wind in Ezekiel 37, which some Jewish interpreters linked with Genesis 2:7 (cf. Jn 20:22).<sup>2</sup>
  - c) The wind blows wherever it wishes – Wind continuously has its own will, so does the Holy Spirit. We cannot lead the Holy Spirit; He leads us (Eph. 5:15-18) and fights for us (1 John 4:4).
  - d) The wind blows wherever it wishes – The Holy Spirit operates on His will, not ours, so we need to trust Him.
  - e) The wind blows wherever it wishes – We are in a state of complete consciousness of the wind but cannot control it, so it is with the Spirit. We cannot control when He comes, when He decides whether to give us a special anointing or not.
    - The Spirit of God came to fulfill the will of God for our lives:
      - ☐ He is committed to us at the point of salvation forever (John 14:16-17).
      - ☐ He convicts us of sin (John 16:7-11). Causing us not to be controlled by the sinful nature (Romans 8:9-10,13). Because we have been made alive to righteousness (Romans 8:10).
      - ☐ He reminds us of God's Word (John 14:26).
      - ☐ He illuminates the Word of God for us to understand (1 Corinthians 2:10-15).
      - ☐ The Spirit causes us to desire God's Word like a baby desiring pure milk (1 Peter 2:2).
      - ☐ He comforts us in times of grief (John 14:6, 27 – provides peace).
      - ☐ He prays for us when we are in pain and doesn't know how to pray (Romans 8:26).
      - ☐ He guides us into a true understanding of God's Word (John 16:13) so that we can live free from the influences of the flesh (John 8:31-32).
      - ☐ He provides spiritual fruit that shapes our character when we choose to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25).
      - ☐ The Spirit fills us so that we experience God fully (Ephesians 3:14-19).
      - ☐ He does not allow us to be slaves to fear (Romans 8:15; 2 Tim. 1:7).

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<sup>2</sup> Keener, C. S. (1993). [\*The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament\*](#) (Jn 3:8). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- ☐ The Spirit is the inner power that blesses us to be overcomers (Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4).
- ☐ The Spirit blesses to live by faith and not by sight, causing “*all things to work out for our good*” (Romans 8:28).
- ☐ A commitment to live by the Spirit produces spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-25).
- ☐ The Spirit of God blesses us to discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).
- ☐ Teaches us to live wisely (Ephesians 5:15-18).

This is why the Scriptures declare we are a brand-new creation, and old things can pass away, and we can become new again, as in the days of Adam (2 Cor. 3:18). As a result, we no longer live under our own control, because Christ now fully controls our lives through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20).