

## Living Word Fellowship Church

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### His Life Your Life

John 3:4-8

#### Part II

#### A. It's Spirit Driven (vs. 4-6):

1. Nicodemus said; Tell, speak – Nicodemus had no intentions to stop talking until he got all his questions answered.
2. Unless one is born again – Nicodemus wanted to understand fully how radical a change the divine nature of God can be in a regenerated believer when they become born again.
3. Answered – Jesus' response indicates a decisive and final answer. In other words, this is the only answer to this question forever. There is no other way a person can be born again. This is why Christ said, "Truly, truly."
4. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit:
  - a) **If water** = if baptism is so important for entering the kingdom, it is surprising that the rest of the discussion never mentions it again: the entire focus is on the work of the Spirit (v. 8), the work of the Son (vv. 14–15), the work of God Himself (vv. 16–17), and the place of faith (vv. 15–16).<sup>1</sup>
  - b) The emphasis in John 3:14–21 is on believing, because salvation comes through faith (Eph. 2:8–9). The evidence of salvation is the witness of the Spirit within (Rom. 8:9), and the Spirit enters your life when you believe (Acts 10:43–48; Eph. 1:13–14).<sup>2</sup>
  - c) Water baptism is certainly a part of our obedience to Christ and our witness for Christ (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 2:41). But it must not be made an essential for salvation; otherwise, none of the Old Testament saints was ever saved, nor was the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39–43). In every age, there has been but one way of salvation—faith in God's promise—though the *outward evidence* of that faith has changed from age to age.<sup>3</sup>
5. Cannot enter into the Kingdom of God – Repentance and being saved is the only way to enter heaven.
6. Unless one is born of water and the Spirit – Water is a public reference to evidence of a repentant heart (John the Baptist message). A commitment to turn their lives completely over to God (Romans 10:9) and the pouring of the Holy Spirit into their lives – regeneration (Titus 3:4-8).
7. 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).
8. Born of the Spirit – Anyone who has been regenerated is now radically completely established into a new divine nature because God's Spirit has quickened their spirit (Titus 3:4-8).
9. Born of the Spirit is spirit – Only a saved person can have a friendship with God (Romans 8:9-11).

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). [\*The Gospel according to John\*](#) (p. 192). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 295). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>3</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 295). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- 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>4</sup>

## B. A New Life (vs. 7-8):

1. Do not be amazed – Christ tells Nicodemus not to be focused on his confusion, but rather on his salvation. Don’t allow our desire to understand salvation stifle our spiritual growth.
2. You must be born again – For God to enter into a person (John 14:16–17), it is not accomplished through the Law or human effort (vv. 2–3), but only through the process of regeneration. This comes by repentance and the transforming work of the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit who indwells, renews, and makes the believer alive to God.”
3. The comparison of the Spirit and the wind:
  - a) 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>5</sup>
  - b) 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).
  - c) The wind blows wherever it wishes – We can be fully conscious of the wind, yet we cannot control it. In the same way, the Spirit cannot be controlled. We cannot determine when He comes or when He chooses to grant a special anointing. He moves independently and sovereignly.
  - d) The wind blows wherever it wishes – When the Spirit takes over our lives, we are completely in the state of being like Christ (Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:18; Colossians 3:1-4).
4. To come to a new life is a spiritual transformation. When we renew our minds with the Word of God and practice it, we are able to appraise spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:10-15).

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<sup>4</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 295). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>5</sup> Keener, C. S. (1993). [The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament](#) (Jn 3:8). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

