

# Perfecting Witness: Salt and Light Encounters

## Nicodemus: Truth That Saves



In Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus, He answered two questions that we all must have an answer to in order to be truly saved. We must be able to communicate this to others to fulfill Christ's Mission.

### A. What does it mean to be born again? 3:1-8

1. Being "**born again**" is moving from death to life.
2. Being born again is required for salvation in God's kingdom :3; 7
3. Being born again is caused by God's Spirit, not man's effort :8

### B. How then can anyone be born again? 3:9-21 What you must know and believe to be born again:

1. Jesus Christ is the eternal God in human flesh. 3:13
2. Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. John 3:14; Num 21:4-9
3. You must believe in Jesus alone as the One who can save you from your sins. 3:15-17

### C. Therefore: (:18-21)

#### ***There are two kinds of people in the world:***

1. Those who do not believe in Jesus—they are not born again and prove it by living in darkness and sin. They remain under God's judgment. 3:18-20
2. Those who believe and receive Jesus for forgiveness—they are born again and prove it by learning and practicing the truth and living a new life. 3:21; 2 Cor 5:17

#### ***Salvation is freedom from the...***

1. Penalty of sin (justification) **been** saved  
*Eph 1:13*
2. Power of sin (sanctification) **being** saved  
*Phil 2:12-13*
3. Presence of sin (glorification) **will be** saved  
*Rom 13:11*

"A person may go to heaven without health, without riches, without honors, without learning, without friends; but he can never go there without Christ."

*John Dyer (1699–1757)*

### **John 3:1-21**

:1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, (A2) **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, (A2) **You must be born again.**'

:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is (A3) **everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

:9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

:10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"

:11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

:12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

:13 No one has ascended to heaven but (B1) **He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man** who is in heaven.

:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, (B2) **even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,**

:15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that (B3) **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting** life.

:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

:20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

:21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."