

TALK IT OVER

Born of the Spirit

BOTTOM LINE

You must be born again to see the kingdom of heaven.

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you could add one commandment to the existing ten what would it be?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- Nicodemus - Short Film (5 min.)

VERSES AND QUOTES

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

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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?”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 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 everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus answered and said to him, “How can these things be?”

John 3:1-9 NKJV

“Salvation is not self-improvement – it is divine transformation.”

– Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

Nicodemus was religious, moral, educated, and respected. He was fascinated by Jesus and His message. But he couldn't understand it. We are accustomed to Jesus' terminology. But put yourself in Nicodemus' shoes. How did you come to understand that no amount of human effort can create spiritual life? Why do you think we are so easily attracted to self-improvement instead of transformation? How would you explain to your own "Nicodemus" that this is not religion but relationship? Have you struggled with the question personally, "How do I know I am really saved?" How did you resolve this? *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV) So, Obedience does not earn salvation. It reveals it. Discuss. The moral test of salvation is a changed relationship with sin. What does that mean? The behavioral test is a growing obedience to God, motivated by gratitude, not guilt. How is that true in your life? Genuine love for others is the relational test. Repeatedly Jesus and the New Testament writers tell us this is THE essential test. What does that love look like? What grade would you give yourself on these tests? Explain.

ACTION STEP

I will give myself an honest review on the three tests, and work with God to grow in every area of obedience.