

Lesson 3: The New Birth and Faith

John 3:1-36

Believing Faith

- John the Baptist
- Andrew, Philip and Nathanael
- His disciples (2:11, 22)

Sham Faith (2:23-25)

- Many saw His signs and believed in His name
- Jesus did not entrust Himself to them
- He knew their hearts.

What is the difference?

- The new birth
- The Gospel

The outline of John 3

- The new birth (3:1-8)
- The human dilemma (3:9-15)
- The Gospel solution (3:16-21)
- The witness of John (4:22-36)

You must be born again!

John 3:1-8

A man who saw the signs and believed

- A Pharisee
- Believed Jesus was a teacher from God
- A teacher of Israel
- Did not understand (3:9) spiritual truth (3:12)
- Nicodemus needed to be born again

What is the new birth?

- Two possible translations
 - “from above” – John 3:31; 19:11; 19:23
 - “again” – Galatians 4:9
- Nicodemus’ confusion
- Jesus clarifies: not physical birth but spiritual birth
- Two impossibilities without the new birth
 - You cannot see the Kingdom of God (3:3)
 - You cannot enter the Kingdom of God (3:5)
- What is the Kingdom of God?
 - Appears only here and John 18:36 (x3)
 - Eternal life
- The effect of the new birth
 - You can see the Kingdom of God
 - You can enter the Kingdom of God

Conclusion: The new birth is the act of the Holy Spirit by which sinners are enabled to understand and believe – and therefore enter the Kingdom of God.

- The Spirit and the wind (3:8)
- The new birth precedes faith

The New Birth in Scripture

A popular term but mostly misunderstood

Biblical Metaphors:

- Birth
 - John 1:12-13
 - 1 John 5:1
 - James 1:18
 - 1 Peter 1:3
 - 1 Peter 1:22-23
- Quickening
 - Ephesians 2:1-8
- Creation
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Regeneration
 - Titus 3:5

Biblical Illustrations

- Resurrection of Lazarus
- Paralytic at the pool of Bethesda

How can these things be?

John 3:9-15

Nicodemus is confused

Nicodemus is ignorant

You do not understand Scripture (3:10)

You do understand earthly or heavenly things (3:12)

Jesus, the Son of God, reveals truth from heaven.

The key:

The serpent on the pole – Numbers 21:9.

The Son of Man on the cross

The Gospel message

John 3:16-21

The fundamentals – John 3:16

- The love of God
- The Son of God
- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Eternal life

The final witness of John the Baptist

John 3:22-36

Two ministries – John and Jesus]

- Baptizing
- A question about purification
- John: He must increase and I must decrease.

John's Gospel

- Jesus is God
- Jesus speaks truth
- Jesus gives the Holy Spirit
- Believe in Jesus Christ and live eternally