

New Birth: Why?

[John 3:1-8](#)

[John 3:1-8 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;
²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

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

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

⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

⁸The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The most horrible mistake people can make is also the one they can never correct—namely, living without God, only to die later and face the Savior whom they rejected. Choosing to live in denial about who Jesus Christ is does not change the reality of what will happen one day. God has gone to great lengths to put His truth into written form and protect it down through the ages, so we could spend eternity with Him. It is foolishness to ignore His Words.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and teacher, might have made this mistake, had he followed the thinking of his colleagues. He was a member of the Sanhedrin—the ruling council that tried to discern false teaching and make sure God’s law was upheld. Realizing the signs Jesus performed were beyond the ability of a mere man, Nicodemus came at night to ask questions. The Lord simply said that **“unless one is born again”** he could not see the kingdom of God ([John 3:3](#)). This must have come as a surprise to the Pharisee, who had been confident of his own religion and morality.

Are you like Nicodemus? In other words, does comparing yourself with others make you feel pretty good? Do you, like some people, believe good deeds and religious behavior can earn you a place in heaven? No matter how much you wish this to be true, the Bible teaches otherwise: We’ve all come into the world with a sinful nature, and our sin has separated us from God. Simply being good doesn’t bridge that gap or change the fact that **“the wages of sin is death”** ([Romans 3:23](#); [Romans 6:23](#)).

[Romans 3:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

[Romans 6:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

There’s only one way to salvation—through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#)).

[John 14:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”