

# The Gospel and the Spirit

# John 3:1-21

**#1**

**What** is the gospel?

# John 3:1-2 (ESV)

*Now 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.”*

# What did he want?

- *He didn't ask Jesus how to come to his church*
- *He didn't ask Jesus how he could get to Heaven*
- *He didn't ask Jesus how he could avoid hell*
- *He didn't ask Jesus how solve his problems*

**He wanted God!**

# Adam and Jesus

*(1 Cor 15:22 ESV) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

# Reconciled to God

*(2 Cor 5:18-20 ESV) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*



# Obedience

*(John 14:15 ESV) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*

# If they have a relationship with God...

- *they will want to be in prayer*
- *they will want to be in fellowship.*
- *they will want to be in the word.*

# The results...

*(Acts 2:42 ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

## Question #2

Let us not dumb down **judgment**

# Jesus did not come to condemn the world

*(John 3:17 ESV) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

# The rest of the story

*(John 3:18 ESV) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

# Why some don't believe

*(John 3:19-21 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”*

# Eternal life vs. Wrath of God

*(John 3:36 ESV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*



#3

Like Wind.

# Are you born of the Spirit?

*(John 3:8 ESV) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

# You do not know the path of the wind

*(Eccl 11:5 NIV) As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

# Walk by the Spirit

*(Gal 5:25 ESV) If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

*NIV: let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

**Without the ministry of the Holy Spirit,  
God's word can not be understood**

*(1 Cor 2:14 ESV) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

# Gospel came in power

*(1 Th 1:5 ESV) because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.*

**How is this revealed in  
the Book of Acts?**

# 1.) Pentecost

*(Acts 2:1 ESV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*



## The result....

*(Acts 2:40-41 ESV) With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

## 2.) Lame man at the temple

*(Acts 3:1 ESV) One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”*

# The result...

*(Acts 3:19 ESV) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*

## 3.) The Ethiopian eunuch

*(Acts 8:26-31 ESV) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.*

# The result...

*(Acts 8:39-40 ESV) And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

# The Holy Spirit does the hard work

*(John 16:8 NIV) When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:*

**Are you ready to walk by  
the Spirit?**