

# John 3 - You Must Be Born Again (pt 2)

## A TEACHER OF ISRAEL SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS

Joh 3:5-10 ESV Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, 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, '**You must be born again.**' 8 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." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?**"

## A teacher of Israel should understand this (The LORD speaks about a new heart in Ezekiel)

- Eze 36:25-28 ESV I will sprinkle **clean water** on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a **new heart**, and a **new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will **put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.** 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

## Some interpret born of water and spirit based on this (Ezek 36)

- Clean water to deal with the uncleanness of our **past** (to cleanse)
- A new heart and the Spirit within to help us walk with the LORD **in the future** (cause you to obey)
- There is a focus on obedience - *cause you to walk & careful to obey*

## Some interpret born of water and spirit as (vs 6 - flesh and spirit)

## JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS AUTHORITY TO SPEAK OF HEAVENLY THINGS IN TRUTH

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, **we speak of what we know**, and bear witness to **what we have seen**, but **you do not receive** our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

- **We speak of what we know** - He and the Father
  - Joh 8:17-18 ESV In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me."
- Earthly things - i.e. things that happen on the earth (such as the born again experience)
- YOU DO NOT RECEIVE our testimony, YOU DO NOT BELIEVE
- The sense of vs 13 in GK is : "**None of your teachers can teach you about heaven things**, because *none of them have actually been there*. However, I have been there. I am an eyewitness.
- The NLT version says "**No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven.**"

## MOSES AND THE SERPENT ON A POLE - AN ILLUSTRATION FOR CLARITY AROUND BELIEVING

14 And as **Moses lifted up** the serpent in the wilderness, so must **the Son of Man be lifted up**, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 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. 18 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.

### Moses and the serpent (tell the story)

- Acknowledge you have been bitten by the serpent - You are condemned ALREADY
- Accept there is nothing you can do to fix your problem - It is a lethal snake bite
- Acknowledge / Believe that God has provided a solution - look to the pole / BELIEVE
- There is ONE WAY to be delivered from the snake bite -

### Here is what Jesus said

- Whoever believes in him may have **eternal life**
- Whoever believes in him **will not perish**
- Whoever believes in him **is not condemned**
- Do not believe - **condemned already**

### WE SET THE COURSE OF OUR OWN JUDGEMENT

19 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.

- How could God cast a person into hell...the reality is WE CHOOSE IT
- It really comes down to the choice we make between light and darkness
- People LOVED darkness - BECAUSE their deeds were evil
- People who do wicked things HATE the light, and will not COME TO THE LIGHT

[ SKIP 22-30 - covered in the story of John the Baptist ]

### PURSUIT OF WHAT IS TRUE (LOVING DARKNESS vs DOING WHAT IS TRUE)

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." 31 **He who comes from above is above all**. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. **He who comes from heaven is above all**. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 **Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true**. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for **he gives the Spirit without measure**. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

- Whoever **does what is true** comes to the light
- Whoever receives his testimony - says "**God is True**" (Jesus is speaking the words of God)
- Receive his testimony - **You SET YOUR SEAL - God is TRUE**
  - To set your seal - is believing something and expressing our firm conviction that it is true, and that God who has spoken it is true.
  - 1Jn 5:10-12 ESV Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. **Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar**, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

## TRUE BELIEF WILL RESULT IN OBEDIENCE

36 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.

- Whoever believes the Son = eternal life
- Whoever does not [*BELIEVE? - which seems logical*] - but no *WHOEVER DOES NOT OBEY*]
- True BELIEF results in OBEDIENCE - if you believed the building was on fire you would run out of here

## HOW AM I BORN AGAIN

### By believing and receiving (not forgetting that it leads to obedience)

- Joh 1:10-13 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet **to all who did receive him**, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God**-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but **born of God**.

### A basic understanding of the gospel

- 1Pe 1:18-25 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 **For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.** 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

1. Knowledge that the redemption price has been paid for by the blood of Christ
2. It is a redemption from and empty way of life
3. Through him you BELIEVE - Faith and Hope are in God
4. NOW you have purified yourselves by **obeying the truth** = sincere love for each other
5. FOR YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN - **born again through the word**
6. The word of the LORD is imperishable, living and enduring
7. This is the word that was preached to you

When the word of God is preached there is the chance that a seed will be planted in a heart that will respond.