JOHN 3:1—12

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus at 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.” 3 Jesus responded and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus responded and said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you people do not accept our testimony. 12 If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

John 7:45-53

45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?” 46 The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken in this way!” 47 The Pharisees then replied to them, “You have not been led astray too, have you? 48 Not one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? 49 But this crowd that does not know the Law is accursed!”

50 Nicodemus (the one who came to Him before, being one of them) *said to them, 51 “Our Law does not judge the person unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?” 52 They answered and said to him, “You are not from Galilee as well, are you? Examine the Scriptures, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.” 53 And everyone went to his home.
John 19:38-40

38 Now after these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, requested of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred litras weight.

40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

**NICODEMUS’ DEVELOPMENT**

- Status quo learner - Passive
- Naive Learner - Accepting
- Disrupted Learner - Heard something that upsets what's known.
- Curious Learner - Aggressive in Searching Out
- Disruptive Doer - judge all situations by what has disrupted you
- Active investor. - when you start giving to the preservation of the body of life that has changed you.

**FROM ABOVE TO BELOW**

- Religion is a specific set of beliefs and practices, usually based on a sacred text, and represented by a community of people.
- Spirituality is the innate human need to be connected to something larger than ourselves, something we consider to be divine or of exceptional nobility.
- But Spiritual Intelligence, as distinct from both spirituality and religion, is a set of skills we develop over time, through faithfulness and patience. It is the ability to behave with wisdom and compassion, while maintaining inner and outer peace, regardless of the situation.
REBIRTH IS THE REVELATION TO RELEASE FROM WHAT WAS

Baptism in the Tanakh.

• Gen. 7 ~ In 1 Peter 3:20, 21, Peter refers to Noah’s flood as a picture of baptism.
• Ex. 14 ~ In 1 Cor. 10:2, Paul refers to the crossing of the Red Sea as a picture of baptism.
• Ex. 19:10~11 ~ Just before God gave the Ten Commandments, He commanded Israel to wash their clothes in water.
• Ex. 30:18~21 ~ The laver of brass was given for the Priests to wash before entering the Holy Place in the Tabernacle.
• Joshua 3 ~ Just like crossing the Red Sea was a picture of baptism, so is the crossing of the Jordan River.
• 2 Kgs. 5:10~14 ~ Naaman was healed of leprosy after obeying Elisha’s instructions to dip seven times in the river Jordan.
TO SEE

• horáō – properly, see, often with metaphorical meaning: “to see with the mind” (i.e. spiritually see), i.e. perceive (with inward spiritual perception).

• Apart of living and being born from above is enforcing the ability to see the world from a different perspective.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE SPIRITUAL VISION?

First, we need to receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

• Ephesians 1:17 says, That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him.

• Here the apostle Paul prayed for the believers that they might receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see a vision of God’s economy or plan (Eph. 1:17, note 3).

Second, we need to have the eyes of our heart enlightened.

• Ephesians 1:18 continues, The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling...

• Paul’s prayer went on from our spirit to our heart. His prayer for the believers was that, “the eyes of our heart might be enlightened...” This requires that we deal with our heart.

• Third, we need light for the illumination of the things that are unveiled to us.

• We need spiritual light so that we may have vision (Eph. 1:18, note 2). Praise the Lord that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

BORN FROM ABOVE

• It is the beginning of a life which is a constant growth, and the highest development here is but the germ of that which shall be hereafter (1 John 3:1-3).
  o 1 See how great a love the Father has given us, that we would be called children of God; and in fact we are. For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
- Implies that there should be spiritual development. The ability to grow in ways that transcends the natural cares of this life and introduces you to constant enhancements of your life by engagement of the Spirit.

- When you are born from above you are called to live and develop from above as well.

- Jesus is showing Nicodemus that the kingdom of God is not built upon political power and might but rather revealed on the unselfish sacrificial love of God that culminates in the salvation of man and everlasting life.

- Westcott says admirably, "The great mystery of religion is not the punishment, but the forgiveness of sins; not the natural permanence of character, but spiritual regeneration." John 3:4

CYCLE OF FREEDOM

- And there you come to the secret of true freedom, which does not consist in doing as we like, but in liking to do as God wishes us to do.

- When our Lord says ‘where it listeth,’ He implies that a change has passed over a man, when that new life is born within him, whereby the law, the known will of God, is written upon his heart, and, inscribed on these fleshly tables, becomes no longer an iron force external to him, but a vital impulse within him.

- That is freedom, to have my better will absolutely conterminous and coincident with the will of God, so far as I know it.

- Just as a man is not imprisoned by limits beyond which he has no desire to go, so freedom, and elevation, and nobility come by obeying, not the commands of an external authority, but the impulse of an inward life. “The Spirit breathes where He will,” that is to say, there is no limitation of His power to individuals, classes, races.

THE CYCLE OF RESULTS AND SPIRITUAL REASON

Colossians 2:8 – 8 See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.
Colossians 3:1-4 – 1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

James 3:13-17 - Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, here is disorder and every evil thing. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free of hypocrisy.

He is a voice and the result is full of reason, in harmony with human nature and vivifying, or enlivening, it to higher life.

THE CYCLE OF FORMATION

Ecc. 11:5 - Just as you do not know the path of the wind, and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes everything.

A. The Spirit of God works in human lives expanding minds by revealing God’s mind which has ultimate human animation.

• There are numberless operations of the Spirit referred to in the Old Testament, from the first brooding of the Spirit on the formless abyss, to all the special and mighty effects wrought in creation, all the heightening and quickening of human faculty, all the conference of special strength upon men - their intellectual energies and Divine inspirations. Over and above all these, there is all the supernatural change wrought in souls by the Holy Spirit.

B. Christ calls this a “birth of the Spirit,” and declares that, according to all the mysterious comings and departures of the Spirit, leaving only manifold effects. This is called being led oftentimes to new opportunities and experiences of development.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Your generosity is positively changing lives in our church, community, and around the world. Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 that whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Thank you for continuing to help others see the generous nature of the body of Christ through your giving.

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