

John 1:22-28 John the
Baptist, the forerunner
before Christ

John The Baptist



Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ



John 3:1–8: Born again

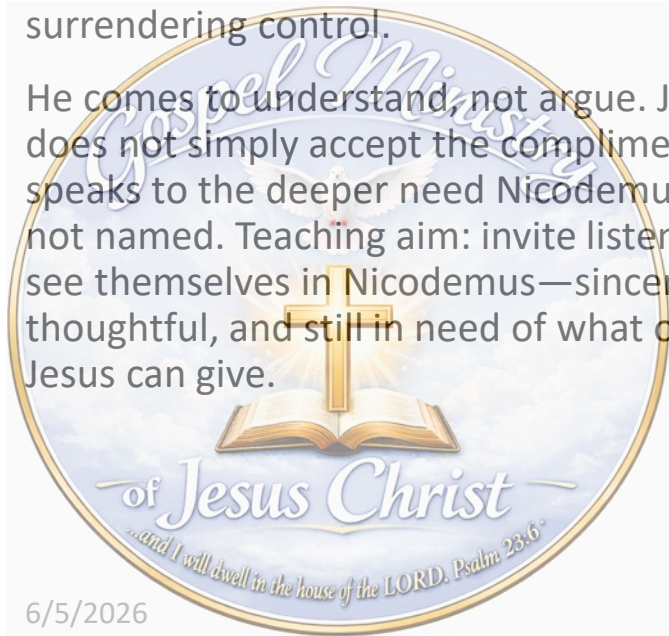
A conversational teaching deck on Jesus' night conversation with Nicodemus



Conversation in the dark (John 3:1–2)

John opens with a surprising scene: Nicodemus, a respected leader, comes to Jesus secretly at night. The darkness suggests caution and honest searching. He addresses Jesus as a teacher from God and admits the signs reveal God's presence, yet he approaches carefully—wanting truth without surrendering control.

He comes to understand, not argue. Jesus does not simply accept the compliment; he speaks to the deeper need Nicodemus has not named. Teaching aim: invite listeners to see themselves in Nicodemus—sincere, thoughtful, and still in need of what only Jesus can give.



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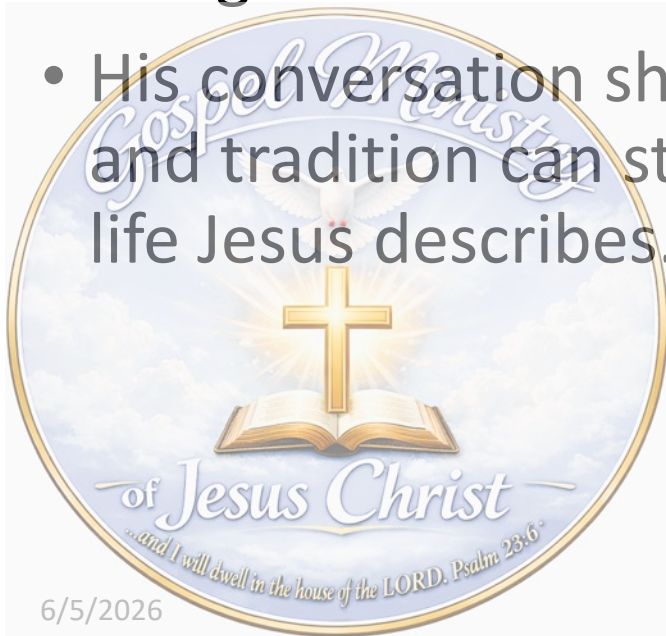


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Who is Nicodemus? (John 3:1)

A Pharisee

- Devoted to the Law; disciplined, knowledgeable, and seriously “religious.”
- His conversation shows effort and tradition can still miss the life Jesus describes.



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A ruler of the Jews

- **Ruler:** Leader with standing; night visit suggests risk to reputation.
- **Seeker:** Sees God in Jesus' signs; cautious but honest; Jesus invites him past religion.

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Born again: not a reset button, a rebirth

| What we assume | What Jesus points to | Why it matters |

| --- | --- | --- |

| Try harder | Receive God's life | Effort can't create life |

| Start over | New at core | Gift beats shame-driven change |

| Add religion | Life transformed | Faith reshapes identity |

| Get answers | See/enter God's kingdom | New heart brings new sight |

| Right group | God's work, not status | Credentials can't replace rebirth |

Self-driven new birth leads to pride/crushing; Jesus offers God-given life.



Two kinds of birth (John 3:4–6)

Born of the flesh

Nicodemus hears Jesus literally: “How can a man be born when he is old?” We naturally filter spiritual words through physical categories. Flesh produces flesh—human effort, willpower, morality, and religion can shape behavior, but cannot create a new heart.



Born of the Spirit

Jesus names a different origin: Spirit produces spirit. New birth is God’s creative work, not cosmetic change. Good actions and discipline matter, but as fruit—not root. This life is not achieved; it is received.

More Scripture on New Birth

John 1:12–13; Ezekiel 36:26–27;
Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3;
1 Peter 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17;
James 1:18; Galatians 6:15;
Ephesians 2:4–5

The wind and the Spirit (John 3:7–8)

“You must be born again,” Jesus says. Like wind, the Spirit is heard and felt in effects, not traced in origin.

We don’t see the Spirit directly, yet new life shows: changed desires, humility, love for truth, trust in Jesus, heart obedience.

Nicodemus wants control and measures. Jesus answers: new birth isn’t managed; it comes as God’s Spirit moves freely.



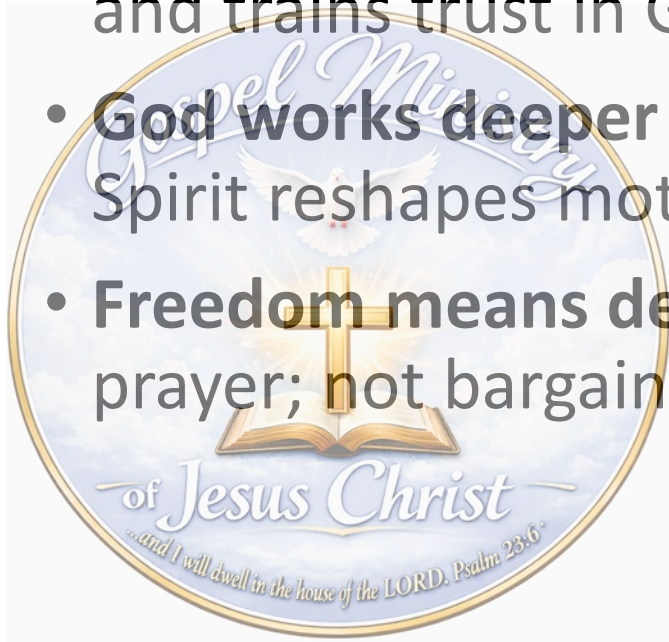
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Why we can't control the Spirit—and that's good

- **New birth is gift, not wage:** Life begins by mercy, not performance—guarding us from pride and despair.
- **Control keeps self on throne:** The Spirit's freedom dethrones self-rule and trains trust in God as King.
- **God works deeper than techniques:** Practices can't create life; the Spirit reshapes motives, fears, loyalties, and love.
- **Freedom means dependence, not chaos:** Not manipulation but prayer; not bargaining but surrender; not self-salvation but faith.



What new birth looks like (fruit, not proof-texts)

New honesty

- Admits need and sin; brings real questions to God.

New dependence

- Prayer becomes normal; ask the Lord to lead.

New desires

- New hunger for the word; old patterns feel wrong.

New love

- Compassion grows; forgiveness becomes possible; truth and mercy together.



New courage

- Less fear of people; obeys Jesus even when costly.

New perseverance

- Keeps going when circumstances change; growth continues, uneven but real.

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Invitation: receive new life

- **Come honestly (like Nicodemus did).** Bring questions and unfinished thoughts; you don't need perfect words—just come to Jesus.
- **Let Jesus name your deepest need.** He says, “You must be born again.” That's hope: God can make you new.
- **Respond with trust.** Pray, “Lord, make me new.” Ask the Spirit for life and keep walking in dependence.



Key takeaways (John 3:1–8)

- **Spiritual questions are welcome.** Jesus met nighttime Nicodemus; heart direction matters.
- **God's Kingdom is seen through new birth.** Not rules—God gives life.
- **Flesh makes flesh; the Spirit makes spirit.** Effort manages behavior; Spirit renews desires.
- **The Spirit is known by effects, not controlled.** Like wind, respond dependently.
- **New birth shows over time.** Expect real fruit: honesty, love, courage, perseverance.



Quick appendix: cross- references (new birth & the Spirit)



New birth (regeneration / new creation)

- John 1:12–13
- Ezekiel 36:26–27
- Titus 3:5
- 1 Peter 1:3
- 1 Peter 1:23
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- James 1:18
- Galatians 6:15
- Ephesians 2:4–5

Spirit's work: life, adoption, assurance

- Romans 8:1–17
- John 14:16–17, 26
- John 16:7–15
- Galatians 4:4–7

“Wind” / unseen power known by effects

- Ecclesiastes 11:5; Acts 2:1–4
- Ezekiel 37:1–14

Repentance & faith: gifted, not earned

- Mark 1:15; Acts 16:14

Fruit over time (evidence of life)

- Matthew 7:16–20; John 15:1–11; Galatians 5:22–25; 1 John 3:9–10

Want a Face-to-Face Presentation or Training?

If you would like a face-to-face presentation or training on

Born of the Spirit,

email the **Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ**

from the Contact page with your information and point of contact.

Someone from the Team will reach out to you.

