

John 20:

³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.

John 3:

¹ 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 (teacher), 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."

- Nicodemus was one of the few religious leaders who wanted to know truth
- God had not talked to the Jewish nation since the prophet Malachi 400 years earlier and now one from God was here
- How does Jesus answer him?

John 3:

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- This is a very profound statement
- Man was created a 3 dimensional being (spirit, consciousness, and body)
- Animals are 2 dimensional beings (consciousness and body)
- Plants are 1 dimensional (body)
- It is in the spirit dimension where man is capable of communing with God
- The problem however is that man's spirit died in the Garden of Eden and natural man has no way to connect to or enter the realm of God

Genesis 2:

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- When man's spirit died his Wi-Fi hardware to God was also destroyed.

1 Corinthians 2:

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- KEY: Natural man does not even have the capacity to know God, or to see/understand spiritual truths because he is spiritually dead
- Can anyone remember what it was like before you were born again?
- How did you fight against that nagging conscience inside of you?
- How did you try to fill the spiritual void? Did it work?

John 3:

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Bottom Line:

- Man cannot fill the spiritual void in his life
- Man cannot resurrect his spirit by works or human endeavors
- Man needs a spiritual rebirth to see and enter the kingdom of God

1 Peter 1:

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again (born us again, born us anew) to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (AMEN!)

John 3:

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, 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 the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit (pneuma: air, breath).”

- Jesus is laying a heavy truth on Nicodemus which was a mystery
- Snow ball machine. Can’t see the air but can feel it and its effects
- Jesus emphasizes the importance of the spirit when talking to the woman at the well.

John 4:

¹⁹ The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 3:

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?

- Nicodemus the Pharisee, ruler, and teacher of Israel doesn't have a clue. Perhaps Jesus is pointing out his ignorance
- Pharisees took a oath before three witnesses to keep over 6000 religious rules yet their form of religion was far from the truth and became a hindrance to knowing the truth

John 3:

- Jesus continues ...

¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

- Course: Theology 101A vs the 300 level
- You have a problem Nicodemus, you are not receiving nor are you believing what you see me do and hear me say. How can I move forward with you?

John 3:

¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

- Jesus affirms that he came from heaven
- And now Jesus will answer Nicodemus' question of how one can be born again starting from an Old Testament story that Nicodemus knew well

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness

Numbers 21:

⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” ⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

- Very symbolic story
 - Snake is symbolic of sin
 - Brass is symbolic of judgement
 - Lifted up is symbolic of the cross
- Think about what the people of Israel had to do to be saved from the snake bites. God did not directly heal them.
- How does looking up at a brass snake on a pole heal anything?
- How does looking up at a savior on a pole heal us and cause us to be born again?
- Our sin was placed upon Jesus and judgement for that sin was meted out on the cross. Our sins have been judged and I will no longer perish for my sins

2 Corinthians 5:

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isaiah 53:

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He *was* bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

John 3:

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- The how to the question “how can a man be born again”: I have eternal life by looking in faith at Jesus on the Cross
- It is impossible to explain how the process of looking at brass snake on a pole can heal those bitten. The same can be said about how looking at Jesus on the cross can save us from sin.
- Now for the why:

John 3:

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- Because of God's love for us
- How many times do we feel like God is condemning us?
- Have you ever felt like you were waiting for God's hammer of judgement to fall on you?

Romans 8:

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

- The world was already condemned
- Romans 6: ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- How did your life turn from dark/evil deeds to truth and light when you were born again?

