

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 8:9 Romans makes it abundantly clear that we cannot and do not come to God in our own capacity. God's Spirit illuminated your mind, and in response you chose to believe.
- 2) 8:9 Nowhere in Scripture do we find a clearer indication that the Holy Spirit enters a believer at the moment of salvation.
- 3) 3:2 We might look at Nicodemus' statement as one of belief. But God is omniscient, and He understood his heart.
- 4) 3:3 No matter how "religious," no one enters the Kingdom of God without experiencing personal regeneration. Ultimately, Jesus is saying to all of us, human effort is powerless to save.
- 5) 3:3 Nicodemus is no different than many in our world who fail to understand just how far short of the glory of God we really are.
- 6) 3:4 Jesus did not minimize the weight of the issue in order to win Nicodemus over; He hit him straight on.
- 7) 3:5 Jesus was not talking about baptism. Baptism is part of obedience to Christ, but it is not salvation (otherwise, none of the Old Testament saints nor the thief on the cross were saved).
- 8) 3:5 Water in the Bible refers to spiritual renewal/cleansing (Ezekiel 36:24).
- 9) 3:8 The wind is a mystery; it is not controlled, but its effects are seen. The same is true of the Holy Spirit.
- 10) 3:10 Knowledge of the Old Testament should have given Nicodemus all the light he needed to understand salvation (2 Timothy 3:14).
- 11) 3:11 Nicodemus' real struggle was letting go of his previous way of thinking about God.
- 12) 3:11 Nicodemus was responsible to do something with the information he had been given. Even those who have never heard the Truth are still responsible for what they do know (Romans 1:18–21).
- 13) 3:12 Refusal of God's Truth results in an inability to go any further; that is why the conversation ended.
- 14) 8:10-11 The presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the guarantee of new life (John 14:23; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17).

GREEK WORDS

Palingenesia—rebirth - to regenerate (figurative) spiritual renovation

Gennaō (genos)—to procreate (properly of the father); to regenerate

Anōthen (an'-o-then)—from the first; anew :- from above, again, from the beginning

Thaumazo (thou-mad'-zo)—to wonder; marvel

QUOTES

"Jesus' word regarding the new birth shatters once for all every supposed excellence of man's attainment, all merit of human deeds, all prerogatives of natural birth or station." ~R.C.H. Lenski

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