

Nicodemus

Illustration: TV preacher who closes his program by saying, “If you prayed that prayer, we believe you got born again.” **NO!** That’s like saying, “If you put down that cigarette we believe you kicked the habit” or “If you put down that bottle we believe you’re no longer an alcoholic” or “If you put down those pills we believe you’re no longer a drug addict.”

John 3:1-5 ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

- GOD GIVES SECOND CHANCES! No matter what your life has been like up until this point, you can be **born again** and start over.
- If you are born once, you’ll die twice! But if you are born twice, you’ll only die once!
- You are better off not to be born at all than to not be born again.
- You must be born again, because only your second birth can cancel out your second funeral! (You think your first funeral is sad? It only lasts an hour; your second funeral will last for all eternity!)
- Two dimensions to being born again: water baptism puts you in Christ, Holy Ghost baptism puts Christ in you!
- YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN ... OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT!

WATER

- Baptism is not an option; there is no such thing in the Bible as a Christian who was not baptized!
- **John 3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- If you’re not willing to be baptized the Bible way, you can’t get into God’s kingdom! The Bible says that there is only “one baptism” – so if there is only one right way to be baptized, WHAT IS IT?

• WE MUST BE IMMersed IN WATER (MODE)

- Because Jesus was baptized by immersion
- Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion
- Because that’s precisely what the word baptism means
- Because it is the best portrayal of a burial and resurrection

• WE MUST BE BAPTIZED IN JESUS’ NAME (FORMULA)

- **Every baptism in Acts was performed in Jesus’ name.**
THE DAY OF PENTECOST: Acts 2:38 – be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins
THE SAMARITANS: Acts 8:16 – they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS: Acts 10:48 – he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord
THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN: Acts 19:5 – they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
PAUL’S BAPTISM: Acts 22:16 – And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- **The epistles teach baptism in the name of Jesus.**
Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
Colossians 1:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
- **Jesus is the only name with the power to save us.**
Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

SPIRIT

- **Acts 17:28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being.
- **Zechariah 4:6** This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.
- If you want to be in the body of Christ, you must receive His Spirit!
- **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- **Romans 8:14-16** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- How do you know that you've received the Holy Ghost? The Bible says that when you do, you will speak in tongues!
 - Isaiah 28 – with stammering lips and another tongue
 - Joel 2 – I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh
 - Acts 2 – Jewish disciples on the Day of Pentecost (“this is that”)
 - Acts 10 – Gentiles at Cornelius’ household
 - Acts 19 – disciples of John the Baptist

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO “BELIEVERS”	
FIRST BELIEVE THEN RECEIVE!
After that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. (Eph. 1:13)
And these signs shall follow them that believe they shall speak with new tongues. (Mark 16:17)
He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive ... (John 7:38-39)
Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)
Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? (Acts 19:2)	