

Introduction:

*"Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.'*

*Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'*

*'How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!'*

*Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'"* John 3:1-8

I. The Necessity of the New Birth

*""Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (vs. 3)*

*"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. (vs. 5)*

*"You must be born again." (vs. 7)*

Nicodemus

Application

## **II. What the New Birth Is**

*"You must be born again." (vs. 7)*

Birth

Application

Definition

"The new birth is an act of God whereby he takes his Holy Spirit and plants it, like a seed, in the center of your being so that you begin to change from the inside. From the inside you become rooted in him and those roots, in time, produce fruit: love, peace, joy, patience, goodness, kindness, self-control.

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1:12*

The Difference It Makes

Changes in Nicodemus

### **III. Signs You Have Been "Born Again"**

*"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (vs. 8)*

#### **Two Signs**

- Inexplicable Changes Occur
- A Desire for Obedience
  - "...no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (vs. 3)*

#### **The Question**

*"Yet to all who did receive him, ... born of God." John 1:12*