Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 3:4-8 | Born Again: Part Two

Sunday November 1, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

No one evolves from _____ *to* _____.

SERMON NOTES:

POP QUIZ

1. What question did Nicodemus ask Jesus about being born?

A. “Where must a person go to be born again?”

B. “How can anyone be born when he is old?”

C. “When will the kingdom of God appear?”

D. “Why do only religious leaders need to be born again?”

2. In the illustration of the car that would not start, what did the “why” question seek to understand?

A. Who owned the car

B. How long the repair would take

C. The reason behind the problem

D. Where to purchase another car

3. What was the central difference between Nicodemus’s understanding and Jesus’s teaching about birth?

A. Nicodemus was thinking about physical birth, while Jesus was speaking about spiritual birth.

B. Nicodemus was thinking about spiritual birth, while Jesus was speaking about physical birth.

C. Nicodemus was asking about baptism, while Jesus was discussing family history.

D. Nicodemus was discussing the kingdom of Rome, while Jesus was discussing Jerusalem.

4. According to John 3:5, what did Jesus say was necessary to enter the kingdom of God?

A. Membership in the Sanhedrin

B. Knowledge of the Mosaic law

C. Descent from Abraham

D. Being born of water and the Spirit

5. Which Old Testament passage did the sermon use to help explain Jesus’s words about water and the Spirit?

A. Genesis 12

B. Ezekiel 36

C. Exodus 20

D. Psalm 23

6. According to Ezekiel 36, what did God promise to do for his people?

A. Give them political power over every nation

B. Remove every difficulty from their lives

C. Cleanse them, give them a new heart, and place his Spirit within them

D. Give them a new temple made without human hands

7. According to the sermon, how should we understand being born of water and the Spirit?

A. As God’s work of cleansing and giving new life

B. As two separate physical births

C. As a promise limited to religious leaders

D. As a requirement to perform more good works

8. What was the main point of the illustration that dogs produce dogs and cats produce cats?

A. People can become spiritually alive through education.

B. Every person inherits their parents' faith.

C. Physical birth makes a person part of God’s kingdom.

D. Human birth produces human life; spiritual life requires the Spirit’s work.

9. What could Nicodemus not accomplish for himself, even though he could do things that benefited others?

A. Learn the Scriptures

B. Give himself a new heart

C. Become a religious teacher

D. Help people in need

10. According to the sermon, which of the following is produced by the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers?

A. Perfect health and financial success

B. Freedom from every difficulty

C. The fruit of the Spirit, including love, joy, and peace

D. The ability to predict the future

11. What did the sermon identify as evidence of spiritual life?

A. Repentance, a changed way of treating people, and spiritual fruit

B. The absence of every struggle with sin

C. A life free from tests and trials

D. An impressive religious résumé

12. What did Jesus's illustration of the wind teach about the work of the Spirit?

A. The Spirit's work can be controlled by human effort.

B. Spiritual birth can always be seen as it happens.

C. The Spirit works in exactly the same visible way in every person.

D. The Spirit's work cannot be seen directly, but its effects can be observed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Monday: Asking "How" and "Why"

1. Nicodemus struggled to understand how someone could be born again. When have you struggled to understand something the Lord teaches?
2. When you encounter a difficult truth in Scripture, are you more likely to dismiss it, become frustrated, or bring your questions to the Lord? Why?
3. What question about your faith would you like to study or pray about this week?

Tuesday: A New Heart

1. Read Ezekiel 36:25–27. What does God promise to do for his people in these verses?
2. How does God's promise to cleanse his people and give them a new heart encourage you in your struggle with sin?
3. Is there an area of your life where you need to ask the Lord to change your desires rather than simply improve your behavior?

Wednesday: Flesh and Spirit

1. Jesus said, "Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). What does this teach you about the source of spiritual life?
2. Where are you tempted to depend on your own strength to bring about spiritual change?
3. What might it look like to depend on the Holy Spirit in that area today?

Thursday: The Work of the Holy Spirit

1. Which aspect of the Holy Spirit's work—comforting, guiding, convicting, or producing spiritual fruit—are you most thankful for today? Why?
2. Read Galatians 5:22–23. Which fruit of the Spirit would you like to see grow in your life?
3. How could that fruit become visible in a conversation or relationship this week?

Friday: Spiritual Growth

1. How have you seen the Lord change your attitudes, desires, or responses over time?
2. When the Holy Spirit makes you aware of sin, how do you usually respond? What would it look like to respond with repentance and trust in the Lord?
3. Is there a relationship where the Lord may be prompting you to seek forgiveness, offer forgiveness, or pursue reconciliation?

Saturday: The Wind and the Spirit

1. Jesus compared the Spirit's work to the wind (John 3:8). What does this illustration teach you about God's work in a person's life?
2. Can you think of a time when the Lord was working in your life, even though you did not recognize it at the time? What helped you see it later?
3. Who can you pray for today, asking the Lord to work in that person's heart and make himself known?