

John 3:5-15

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.

- **Ezekiel 36:25** "Then I will sprinkle _____ on you, and you will be clean; I will _____ you from all your filthiness and all your idols."
- **Titus 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He _____ us, through the _____ of regeneration (NEW BIRTH) and renewing of the Holy _____."
- **Ephesians 5:25-26** "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the _____ and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and _____ it with the _____ of _____ by the _____."

Definition: "BORN of WATER and the SPIRIT" - Water is used in scripture to represent the Holy Spirit and the word of God. Since Jesus already mentions the Holy Spirit in this verse, we can assume the "water" means the word of God. This is NOT talking about water baptism, because water baptism is only SYMBOLIC of God's washing and cleansing us when we are BORN AGAIN. God washes and cleanses us from our SINS by **His word, the Holy Spirit, and the blood of Jesus**.

- **I Peter 1:23** "Having been _____ again, not of corruptible _____ but incorruptible, through the _____ of _____ which lives and abides forever."
- **I John 5:6-8** "This is He who came by _____ and blood - Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by _____ and _____. And it is the _____ who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three who bear witness in heaven: the Father, the _____, and the Holy _____; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the _____, the _____, and the _____; and these three agree as one."
- **John 7:38-39** "He who _____ in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his _____ will flow rivers of living _____. But this He spoke concerning the _____, whom those _____ in Him would _____; for the _____ was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

Definition: "He cannot ENTER the kingdom of God" - The reason a person CANNOT enter the kingdom of God without being born again, is because **we are all DEAD in our SINS**, and we MUST have a SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH and be RE-CREATED and given LIFE by God in order to **LIVE in His kingdom**.

- **I Corinthians 15:50** "Now this I say, brethren, that _____ and _____ cannot inherit the _____ of _____; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."
- **Romans 8:10** "And if _____ is in you, the body is _____ because of _____, but the _____ is _____ because of righteousness."

Definition: "The SPIRIT is LIFE" - In this verse, the word "spirit" should NOT be capitalized, meaning the Holy Spirit, but "spirit", meaning your HUMAN SPIRIT within you. You are given LIFE, **your spirit is REBORN and MADE ALIVE** in Christ Jesus when you receive Him as your Lord and Savior.

- **Ephesians 2:1** "And you He made _____, who were _____ in your trespasses and _____."
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were _____ in trespasses (sins), made us _____ together with Christ (by grace you have been saved);"

6-7. That which is **born of the flesh is FLESH**, and that which is **born of the Spirit is SPIRIT**. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be BORN AGAIN**'."

- **Psalms 51:1-2, 10** "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions (sins); _____ me thoroughly from my iniquity, and _____ me from my _____. _____ in me a clean _____, O God, and renew a steadfast _____ within me."
- **Romans 7:18** "For I know that in _____, (that is in my _____) nothing _____ dwells; for to WILL is present with me, but HOW to perform what is _____ I do not find (am not able to do)."

Definition: "In MY FLESH nothing good dwells" - Our "**flesh**", or **HUMAN NATURE** is TOTALLY INCAPABLE of DOING ANY GOOD as far as God is concerned. That is why Jesus said **we MUST be BORN AGAIN!!** If you have had ONLY ONE BIRTH (your physical, human birth) you will NEVER be able to DO ANYTHING to please God. **You MUST have a spiritual RE-BIRTH by ACCEPTING Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.** Then, and only then, will you be a NEW CREATION with a SPIRITUAL NATURE that can do God's will as GOD HIMSELF WORKS in and through you.

- **John 6:63** "It is the _____ who gives _____, the _____ profits _____. The _____ that I speak to you are _____, and they are life."

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.**

- **I John 5:18** "We know that whoever is _____ of God does not sin (constant, habitual sin); but he who has been _____ of _____ keeps (guards) himself, and the _____ one (Satan) does not _____ him."
- **I John 3:9** "Whoever has been _____ of _____ does not _____, for His (God's) _____ remains in him (the believer); and he cannot _____, because he has been _____ of God."

Definition: "Whoever has been BORN OF GOD cannot SIN" - The "NEW YOU," born again (born of the Spirit) and created in the IMAGE OF GOD cannot sin. It is your **SPIRIT** that is born of God, but your **MIND** still needs to be RENEWED and your **BODY** needs to be brought into SUBMISSION to God and under the control of the NEW YOU. Yes, we still fall into sinful behaviors after we are born again, but it is because **we are ALLOWING** our UNRENEWED MIND and BODY to be in CONTROL, rather than our BORN-AGAIN SPIRIT, the NEW CREATION in Christ Jesus.

- **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in _____, he is a _____; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become _____."

9-10. Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and **do NOT know these things?**"

- **Read I Corinthians 2:14-16** "But the _____ man (NOT born again) does _____ receive (understand) the things of the _____ of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he _____ them, because they are _____ discerned (understood). But he who is _____ judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'Who has known the _____ of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the _____ of Christ."

Definition: "You DO NOT KNOW these things?" - The "**natural man**" without the New Birth, is spiritually dead, and incapable of understanding the things of God, because they are only **understood through the spirit**. So, Nicodemus, no matter how learned in the Scriptures he was, or how intellectual he was, could not comprehend **true SPIRITUAL things**, because they are **SPIRITUALLY discerned** (understood). However, he should have known the scripture in the Old Testament that Jesus was referring to when He said "born of water and the Spirit" - that scripture was Ezekiel 36:25-27.

- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** "Then I will sprinkle _____ on you, and you will be clean; I will _____ you from all your filthiness and all your idols. A new heart also will I give you, and a new _____ will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh (body), and I will give you a heart of flesh (a compassionate heart). I will put My _____ within you and _____ you to walk in My statutes (laws), and you will _____ My judgments and _____ them."

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

- **Read John 5:31-39** (Verses 31-33) "If I bear _____ of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears _____ of Me, and I know that the _____ which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John (the Baptizer), and he has borne _____ to the truth."
- **Read John 8:14-18** (Verse 14) "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Even if I bear _____ to Myself, My witness is _____, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.'" (Verses 17-18) "It is also written in your law that the _____ of two men is true. I am One who bears _____ of Myself, and the _____ who sent Me bears _____ of Me."

Definition: "You do not receive Our witness." - The "**You**" Jesus is referring to is Nicodemus and **the Pharisees as a group**. The "**We**" and "**Our**" witness means the witness of John the Baptist, the disciples of Jesus, and Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit Himself. Jesus also says in John 5:37 that the Father has testified of Him, and in John 5:36 & 39 that the miracles He did and the Scriptures both witnessed and testified of Him.

- **John 5:36 & 39** "But I have a greater _____ than John's; for the _____ which the Father has given Me to finish the very works (MIRACLES) that I do bear _____ of Me, that the _____ has _____ Me." (Verse 39) "You search the _____, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these (the scriptures) are they which _____ of Me."

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

- **Proverbs 30:4** "Who has _____ into _____, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His _____, and what is His _____ name, if you know?"

Definition: "No one has ASCENDED to heaven" - Jesus is saying that NO ONE has been able to go up to heaven, and **then COME BACK and TELL people about it**, other than Himself. This is a direct contradiction of some of the world's religions which claim to have heavenly or divine revelation. Today, the New Age Movement talks about **ASCENDED MASTERS**, which are believed to be spiritual entities which once had physical bodies, but have "evolved" beyond the physical. To those in the New Age, their teachings are not to be questioned, as though they had "divine wisdom." According to the Bible, these spirit beings are **demons**, and are CERTAINLY NOT giving people the truth about God.

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

- **Numbers 21:8-9** "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery _____, and set it on a _____; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he shall live. And Moses made a bronze _____ and set it on the _____; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze _____, he _____.'"
 - **John 8:28** "Then Jesus said, 'When you _____ up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My _____ taught Me, I speak these things.'"
 - **Read John 12:32-34** "And I, if I am _____ up from the earth (on the cross), will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said signifying by what _____ He would die. The people answered Him, 'We have heard from the law that the Christ remains _____; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be _____ up? Who is this Son of Man?'"

Definition: "The Son of Man MUST be LIFTED UP" - Jesus is referring to His being nailed to the cross and "lifted up" from the earth as He would hang there on the cross during His crucifixion. The Jews knew He was speaking of crucifixion, because in John 12:32-34 they ask the question of how can the Messiah (Christ) both "remain forever" and be killed by crucifixion.

Definition: "as Moses LIFTED UP the SERPENT" - It is not just the serpent on the pole that represents (is a "type" of) Christ, but the whole situation in Numbers 21 illustrates the plan of salvation. The Hebrew people were being bitten by poisonous snakes, but God provided a WAY for them to be healed and not die (to be saved). They had to LOOK with FAITH (believing) to **the SERPENT hanging on the pole**. All humanity has been "bitten" by the POISON of SIN, and **we must look IN FAITH to Jesus** to be saved from that poison. But why would Jesus use the symbol of a SERPENT (a SNAKE, something EVIL) to represent Himself? Because Jesus **"became sin for us"** on the cross.

- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He _____ Him who knew no _____ to _____ sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."