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## John 3:1-10

1. “Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;
2. this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’
3. Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’
4. Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born again when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?’
5. Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
6. ‘That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
7. ‘Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
8. ‘The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.’

9. Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’

10. Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?’

Truly, if one expects to enter into the kingdom of God, he must be born again. In instructing Nicodemus, Jesus repeats this truth no less than three times.

In verse 3 Jesus states, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Then in verse 5, Jesus says, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into kingdom of God.” And finally in verse 7, Jesus repeats the message: “Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”

According to Jesus’ own description of the rebirth process in John 3:5 one must be born “of water and the Spirit.” By this means a person can enter into the kingdom of God. Obviously water baptism is indicated here, as Jesus Himself received the Spirit sent from heaven as He rose up out of the waters of the Jordan River, being baptized by John.

I remember years ago as my wife and I were preparing for the birth of our first child. We attended a La Maze class up at Kalispell Regional Hospital. The nurse described how the baby is in the sac of amniotic fluid and when the water breaks, the process of birth begins. The baby literally is born by coming out of water.

Someone in the class asked about the situation called

a “dry birth,” where the mother’s water sac breaks long before the actual birth takes place. I remember the nurse answering that there really is no such thing as a dry birth, and this phrase is somewhat misleading. She went on to describe how the mother’s body naturally produces a flow of fluid around the baby, until the baby matures enough for birth to take place. In this case the baby comes out of a river of flowing water, rather than a reservoir of water!

Have you been born again of water and the Spirit--as Jesus says you must?

To be born again, one must first die to self and be buried with Christ in water baptism as clearly stated in Romans 6:4. Then and only then, can anyone be born again out of water to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Have you been born again of water and the Spirit?