

A painting depicting two men in a study. The man on the left has a long dark beard and is wearing a dark robe with a red sash. The man on the right has a long white beard and is wearing a turban and a red and white striped robe. They are both looking at an open book on a table. A candle in a holder is on the table, and a small box is also visible. The background is dark and textured.

# Being Born of the Spirit

John 3:1-18



# Opening Reflection

What first brought you into a loving relationship with God and **how have you grown after** becoming a Christian?

Have you ever **struggled** with living a Christian life?



# Opening Reflection

The **struggle of being a Christian** will always come **when we focus on our own works, compare ourselves to others, and forget the Gospel.**

We need to **focus less on our abilities, and more on the Spirit's work** which starts within us!



# Background on John

1. **John 20:31** *But these are **written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.***
2. The story of Nicodemus is at **the beginning of Jesus' ministry!**



## John 3:1-18

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.**”



## John 3:1-18

<sup>4</sup> “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!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “**Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**



## John 3:1-18

<sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, **‘You must be born again.’** <sup>8</sup>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.”** <sup>9</sup>“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup>“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”



## John 3:1-18

<sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> **No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.**





## John 3:1-18

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



## John 3:1-18

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order **that the world might be saved through him**. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.



## Roadmap

**1. Who** is Nicodemus?

**2. What** does **Being Born in the Spirit** mean??

**3. How** to Personally apply the Gospel into our own hearts



# I. Who is Nicodemus?

1. Nicodemus is a **member of the Sanhedrin**

2. Nicodemus is a **Conflicted seeker**

3. **But** Nicodemus wanted to know **the truth**. He wanted to know more about who Jesus is.



## II. Born in the Spirit

Being born in the Spirit is:

1. **New** Spiritual Life
2. **Beyond** our Comprehension
3. **Receiving** Eternal Salvation



# 1. New Spiritual Life

v 3 → Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**Being Born Again is:**

- 1. Regeneration!** (Spiritual Rebirth)
- 2. Dying** to our old self, being **alive in Christ.**

# *Extreme* MAKEOVER HOME EDITION



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From Season 1

Before



After









# The Doctrine of Regeneration

“Regeneration is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit which grants spiritual life to each Christian, raising them from the dead so that they are now able to repent and trust in Christ as a new creation.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17:** If anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**: the old has gone, the new has come.



# The Doctrine of Regeneration

## 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God... **<sup>12</sup> What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.** <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.



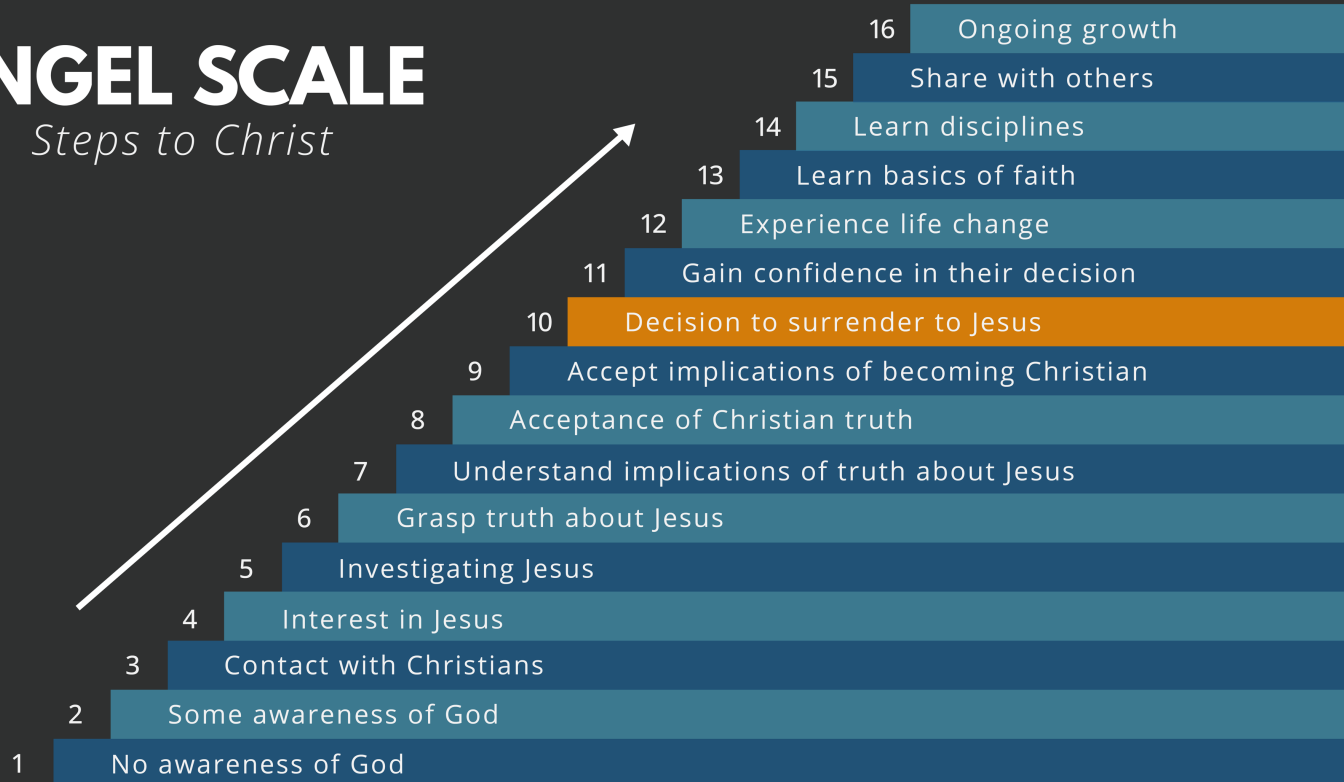
## 2. Beyond Our Comprehension

v 5-7 → Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 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.’ **The wind blows where it wishes,** and you hear its sound, but **you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.** So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”



# ENGEL SCALE

*Steps to Christ*









Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.



### 3. Receiving Eternal Salvation

v 13-15 → No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, **so the Son of Man must be lifted up,** <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have **eternal life** in him.”





# The Bronze Serpent and the Son of Man

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way ... Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died ... And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” **So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**



# The Gospel

**John 3:16-18** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that **the world might be saved through him**. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.



# What Happened to Nicodemus?

**John 7:50-51**

Nicodemus tries to help justify Jesus in front of the Sanhedrin

**John 19:38-42** → Nicodemus accompanies Joseph of Arimathea to take down Jesus and prepare for his burial.

Nicodemus' life was **greatly affected and changed** from his encounter.



# What does this Mean for Us?

2 Corinthians 4:16 -17

Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet **inwardly we are being renewed day by day**.<sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.



# What does this Mean for Us?

2 Timothy 1:7-9

<sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline...<sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time