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John 3:15-18 (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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Ye Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-7 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: (2) The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. (3) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? (5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of 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) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

The term "born again" is confusing to many people. We can see in our scripture above it was confusing to the Pharisee Nicodemus. Being born again is what distinguishes a Christian from a non Christian. It is clear that it is something that is of the spirit because the Bible tells us that the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God because they are spiritually discerned. The natural man is one who continually operates in the realm of the flesh.

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Three times in these seven verses Jesus speaks of the importance of the spiritual birth of being "born again." In verse three he says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." In verse five he says, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." In verse seven he says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." I would say that it is obvious that Jesus is emphasizing the need for men to be "born again." Notice that these statements are made in the negative. Without the new birth men and women cannot see the kingdom of God. That simply means that without the new birth we cannot go to heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:50 tells us that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is a spiritual place. It is found in the realm of the spirit. Throughout the Bible God is showing men the reality of the realm of the spirit. It is an eternal realm. It is unseen by the physical eye.

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To be born again is to bear the image of the spiritual. To bear the image of the spiritual is to have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us. Romans 8:9 tells us, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." This is akin to saying that if you are not born again you cannot enter the kingdom of God. To be born again is to have the Spirit of Christ in us.

Jesus did not leave Nicodemus without the "How to be born again" in the John 3 passage. In verses 15 - 18 he says that one needs to **believe on Jesus** to receive eternal life, i.e, to be born again, to bear the image of the spiritual, to be born of the Spirit. If you are not born again, then I would encourage you to read John 3:15 - 18 and allow the Holy Spirit to minister these words of life to your heart. Today is the day of salvation. Today is

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