

BORN INTO THE KINGDOM

June 26, 2016 John 3:1-13 by Bob Branch
Believing Into Life, Part 8

BIG IDEA: God wants us to move fluidly within his life, his rhythms, his ways. To do so, something must change within us that will allow us access, and compel us forward. Jesus calls this, the new birth.

The way into God's reign, in the now AND in the future, is through an inside-job he will call "rebirth"!

³ **Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² 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."**

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "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!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Born of **water** (born out of a womb) into the human race.

Born of the **spirit**, born into the heavenly realm.

⁶ **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You [all] must be born again.'** ⁸ **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."**

Something as invisible but real as the wind must happen inside you for the true kingdom to register, receive and take its place within you!

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?" ¹¹ **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. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?**

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." **1 Cor. 2:14**

¹³ **No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.**

1. The kingdom of God, heaven's realm, has come to us in Jesus! Where-ever Jesus is, the kingdom has come.
Luke 17:21 "...the Kingdom of God is already among you." NLT
2. God has designed us to *See* and *Enter* into his kingdom in our daily lives. Jesus' message: the kingdom is available now. To move into his forgiveness, his peace, his restoration, his grace.
Luke 12:32 "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." NRS
3. Something real but invisible needs to happen inside each of us in order to see and enter the kingdom. You need to be born from above. (Ezekiel 36:2-27; Is. 31:31-34)
4. You don't "birth" yourself. It happens to you by God himself when you believe and entrust yourself to him. It is a miracle. (1 Pet. 1:3)