# 1 John Lesson 23

1 John 5:1-3

**“Born of God”**

**Introduction**: Everything that is taught in 1 John must be preceded by a particular event in one’s life…One must be born of God. We cannot take all that is taught in this book of 1 John and comprehend much less apply it to our lives, unless we have been born again. There are many who hear of the great importance of obedience, of truth and sound doctrine, or of loving God and loving others. But it is more of a frustration to their life and instead of being a blessing to their life. Rather than hearing the preacher speak truth establishing their heart, they get confused, because they hear contradictory statements from apparently spiritual people. There may be someone here that is frustrated because you are trying to please a Father that is not yours and trying to fit into a family to which you do not belong. In order to be blessed by these truths from God’s Word, you must be born of God. He MUST be your FATHER!! Many people have frustration trying to practice the standards of the Bible and live a righteous life.

**I. Whosoever believeth… (John 3)**

A. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews

1. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about his birth and rebirth

a. It is one thing to be aware that Jesus miracles are by the power of God.

b. It is entirely another thing to be born of God.

c. Except you are born again, you will not see the kingdom of God.

1) being a ruler of the Jews is not sufficient

2) being a religious man is not sufficient

3) acknowledging the power of God to do miracles is not sufficient

2. Nicodemus asks about the possibility of a man being born again.

a. Can a man be born a second time?

b. How can a man enter again into the womb?

3. Jesus answers him with truth of scripture

a. Except a man be born of Water and the Spirit

b. Water is The Word of God - Titus 3:5 / Eph 5:26

c. That which is born of the flesh is flesh

d. That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit

4. Jesus is not talking about another fleshly (physical) birth.

a. Not something that has to do with the physical realm.

b. This is something that has to with the spiritual realm.

5. Jesus told him not to marvel at the thought of being born again.

a. The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest .

1) the wind is an invisible force

2) the source and destination of the wind are both unknown

b. That which is of the Spirit of God is spiritual in nature.

1) There is that which happens in the unseen realm

2) You may see the effects of the work of The Spirit

3) You will not see The Spirit in the physical realm

c. You must have a spiritual birth to know experience the effects of the Holy Spirit

B. Nicodemus had never heard this before.

1. How can these things be?

a. He is saying why have I not heard this before?

b. How could I be a teacher of the Jews and not heard this?

2. Jesus answered him, “You don’t know this?”

a. You mean you are a teacher of God’s people and you do not know about being born again?

b. Here is a man who knows the OT well

3. You receive not our witness

a. Your nation is in unbelief

b. If you don’t believe the earthly things I tell you, how are going to believe if I tell you of heavenly things

4. Jesus is saying nobody but God could be in heaven while they are on the earth.

a. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that He is God in the flesh talking to him.

b. So, he tells Nicodemus how this happens just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.

5. Nicodemus knew of that instance with Moses and the serpent.

a. The brazen serpent had to do with sin

b. The pole had to do with the crucifixion

c. The brass had to do with the judgment of God.

d. All that would look to the pole with the serpent and believe would be healed.

e. Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up to suffer the sin of this world.

6. Jesus is asking Nicodemus if he understands what this meant.

a. When the Son of Man is lifted up, whosoever believes in Him will not perish.

b. For God so loved the world…

c. A man is born again by believing

**II. You cannot add anything else to Salvation**

A. The works of the flesh will not produce spiritual life.

1. Keeping His commandments is only the evidence

2. We are talking about the New Birth

3. Fleshly energy does not produce a spiritual birth

a. Baptism is only a picture it does produce

b. Church Membership does not produce

c. Saying prayers does not produce

B. Spiritual birth cannot be generated by physical effort

1. It can only be done in the heart

a. when an individual believes

b. not only that he is a sinner but that Jesus was raised up between heaven and earth

c. believes that Jesus was the substitute on the cross for all the sinners on the world

d. That God’s judgment was poured out on Jesus there.

2. When a person comes to a place where they believe in Jesus Christ something Spiritual takes place.

a. Their faith meets the Truth

b. The Holy Spirit of God gives Life

c. As when the seed of a man meets the egg of a woman and by the activity of God, conception takes place.

3. Where the Word of Truth meets the Faith of a believer given by God, the New Birth becomes a reality

a. You do not see that with the physical eye.

b. You must be born like that to enter into Heaven.

4. You must come to the place that you realize that you are nothing on your own.

a. None of your physical effort will buy you favor with God.

b. You must come believing in Jesus and His shed blood and His resurrection and His Life.

c. You must claim Jesus and Jesus alone.

5. You may be religious like Nicodemus, but not born again.

a. Even though you may do a lot of good things.

b. Even though you may abstain from a lot of bad things.

**Conclusion**: To try to live by the father’s standard for His family, when He is not your Father will completely turn you bitter against Christianity. It will be much more frustrating than to try and fit into a physical family to which you do not belong.

If you are NOT born from above… this book will confuse you.

> To try to live a life of obedience to the Bible will frustrate you (because it will not make sense)

> to try and show love will make you a hypocrite (because you are acting loving when there is not love within)