

There are a number of accounts in the scriptures of people like Nicodemus who called on the Lord in faith and were thus “born again” just as the Lord had said that they must be. Here are a few examples...

#### AT THE JEWISH TEMPLE

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me a sinner!**’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:10-14)

#### AT CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION

“And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.’ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.’ And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS**. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, ‘If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us’ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we

*receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said to Jesus, ‘**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”(Luke 23:35-43)*

#### AT A PHILIPPIAN JAIL

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.’ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,** you and your household.’”(Acts 16:25-31)

Have you been spiritually “born again”? Remember, that it was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who said...

**“YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.”**

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**TRUE BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY  
IS NOT JUST A RELIGION.  
IT IS A PERSONAL  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
ALMIGHTY GOD!**

*“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”* (John 3:1-3)

In the above narrative, Nicodemus approached the Lord Jesus Christ at night, no doubt because he feared being seen and ridiculed, or worse, by his fellow Pharisee rulers. Yet, he could not deny the miracles which he had seen. He had to know what this Man was about.

The Lord wasted no time in getting to the heart of Nicodemus’ problem. Although he was a religious ruler and had thus partaken of many, many Jewish rituals and kept probably hundreds of Jewish laws, he could not with these achievements to his credit be permitted into the kingdom of God. He needed to be “born again.”

We are made privy to the thoughts of Nicodemus when we read his next question to the Lord. *“Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?’”* (John 3:4) Nicodemus was thus thinking of and puzzled by another physical birth. The Lord helped him to understand by this next illustration that it was a new spiritual birth that is required to see and enter into the kingdom of heaven...

*“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, 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 the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”* (John 3:5-8)

### **PHYSICAL VS SPIRITUAL BIRTH**

Every human physical birth is a water birth. Here, the Lord is helping Nicodemus to understand that he needed a spiritual birth in addition to his physical water birth. The flesh can only produce flesh. It is the Spirit that produces a spiritual birth. Christ told Nicodemus to not marvel at this fact.

Then the Lord gave Nicodemus the example of the wind blowing and how we may hear the sound and see the effects but we cannot see the wind itself. Thus it is so with a spiritual birth. When one is “born again” of the Spirit of God, we may see the works of a new nature as the apostle Paul was moved of God to write, but cannot see the Spirit...

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (2Corinthians 5:17)

*“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1Corinthians 6:11)

### **HOW TO BE “BORN AGAIN”**

*“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.”* (John 5:1)

*“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (John 1:12-13)

*“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For **“whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”**”* (Rom10:9-13)

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”* (1Corinthians 15:1-5)