

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 | “Lifted Up—Ye Must Be Born Again” | **John 3:1–15**

Those Who Are Born Again...

1) Will See the _____ of _____ (3:1–3)

2) Are _____ of the _____ (3:4–8)

3) Believe the _____ of _____ (3:9–12)

4) Look to the _____ of _____ (3:13–15)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read John 3:1–15. What is remarkable about Nicodemus visiting Jesus at night (3:2)? What kind of man was Nicodemus? What kind of man was Jesus? How were they similar and how were they different?

Why would Nicodemus call Jesus “Rabbi” (John 3:2)? What did Nicodemus mean by saying “you are a teacher come from God” (3:2)? Was Nicodemus being sincere in his admiration of Jesus? How did his view of Jesus fall short?

Why did Jesus rebuke Nicodemus in John 3:10? Was it fair of Jesus to rebuke him in this way? Have you been slow to understand things the Lord has shown you? Would he rebuke you right now for any disobedience or disbelief of his Word?

GET PERSONAL

According to Jesus, who needs to be born again in order to see God’s kingdom? Why does this come as such a shock to Nicodemus? Is it possible to be a Christian and not be born again? How is a person born again? How do you know that you were truly born again?

Jesus compares being born of the Spirit to the wind. You don’t see it, but you sense its effects. In what way do we feel the effects of being born of the Spirit? How has the Spirit impacted your life? Where can you see the effects of the Spirit working in you?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How would you explain the term “born again” to a person who has never read the Bible and never attended church? What does it mean to be “born of the Spirit” (3:8)? How do you know if you or somebody else is “born of the Spirit?”

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Read Numbers 21:4–9. Why were the people of Israel wandering in the desert? Why did they complain? What made this grumbling so bad? What did it show about their attitude to God after their rescue from Egypt? Why was God’s punishment so harsh? How does God respond to the repentance of the Israelites?

What does it mean for Jesus to be “lifted up” (see John 12:32–33)? Why did God use the image of a “snake” to typify Jesus? How does the story of the bronze serpent help us understand what Jesus came to earth to do? What does Nicodemus’s story teach us in the Gospel of John? What did Nicodemus do after Jesus was crucified, and what’s significant about his actions (John 19:38–42)?