THE HOLY SPIRIT

God at Work in Us

The Regenerating Spirit (John 3:1-9; 16:7-11)

READ John 3:1-9; 16:7-11 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's sermon.

Without being reborn through the Holy Spirit's work, no one can enter God's kingdom. This was the message Jesus gave to Nicodemus one night when the Pharisee visited Him. Nicodemus, though a teacher of the Jews, was astounded by what Jesus said, asking, "How can these things be?" In this study, we will explore the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing someone from death to life and convicting them of sin, righteousness and judgement.

Main lesson: Without the Holy Spirit's work to convict us of sin and give us new life, no one can enter the kingdom of God.

Questions:

1. From John 2:23–3:10, what do we learn about Nicodemus's character, religious standing and beliefs? Why were these insufficient for entering God's kingdom?

2. A. Why is being born again impossible for someone to achieve by themselves (John 3:3-6)?

   B. Read Eph. 2:1–5 and John 1:12–13. What do these passages reveal about our spiritual condition and our dependence on God for new life?

3. Read John 16:7–11. Why did Jesus say His departure would benefit the disciples? How would the Spirit's ministry help them fulfil their mission?

4. What does it mean for the Spirit to convict the world concerning sin? Why does Jesus particularly identify unbelief in Him (John 16:9)? Consider Acts 2:36–37.

5. A. In what way does the Holy Spirit convict the world of righteousness and judgement, now that Jesus has gone to the Father? Consider the conviction that came because of Noah's godly, obedient life (Heb. 11:7). See also Rom. 12:20.

   B. In what way is living a righteous life costly? Can you share any examples from your own experience where you stood apart from the world and paid the price?

6. Compare John 3:5 with Ezekiel 36:25–27. How do God's promises of cleansing, a new heart and His indwelling Spirit help explain the new birth?

7. What does the illustration of the wind teach us about the Spirit's work (John 3:8)? How should this shape our prayers and expectations when sharing Christ with others?

8. Read Luke 18:9–14 and Acts 16:30–31. What is the right response when we recognise that we cannot save ourselves?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *the Holy Spirit, who is completely sovereign and free to act as He wills*

Thank: *the Lord for saving you and washing you clean of your trespasses and sin*

Pray: *that you would stand apart by the life you live and the decisions you make*