

Breaking the Egg Shell



John 3: 3-5

*Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again."
"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!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you,
no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.*

When I was a high school girl, I was captivated by the Book *Demian* by Hermann Hesse. A particular passage resonated with me: "The bird fights its way out of the egg. The egg is the world. Whoever is born must first destroy a world. The bird flies to God. That God's name is Abraxas." I paused at that moment, took a deep breath, and lingered there for a long time. The concept of 'fighting its way out of the egg' held a profound resonance. At that time, I couldn't fully grasp it, but it possessed an immense power to stop me. I repeated the word again and again. This idea echoes the teachings of Jesus in today's scripture.

The scene unfolds when Nicodemus, a renowned teacher of Israel, visits Jesus at night. Recognizing Nicodemus' insatiable thirst for divine truth, Jesus reveals an eternal truth: "Nicodemus, listen to this profound truth: Before a person can even perceive God's Kingdom, they must undergo a rebirth. Nicodemus responds, "Rebirth? How can an elderly man be reborn? It's impossible for anyone to return to the womb and be reborn again!"

Our life in the world can be compared to life within an egg. Symbolically, the egg represents the natural world where we reside, breathe, work, and endure blindness. It's a dark place, with our eyes closed, and nothing visible. It's akin to a prison. Our natural self, like an unhatched bird within an egg in this dark world, holds no hope for eternal life.

What does the chick (unhatched bird) discover when it emerges from the egg? It witnesses bright sunlight, encounters its mother hen, feels the wind, and also spots the enemy that intends to harm it. Moreover, the chick possesses the mother bird's protective wing. It enters a world entirely new, unimaginable, and unexplored.

When we are reborn or born from above, we are transferred from the natural world or fleshly life into the new spiritual realm, the realm of God. Our spiritual eyes are opened, allowing us to perceive everything in spiritual reality. There is the Father's loving and protective wing and also the devil's fierce intention to harm us. We witness the beauty of light, the gentle touch of the wind Spirit, the colors, sounds, and voice of the spiritual realm, and the presence of God.

This process is often referred to as being born from water and Spirit. It serves as an analogy to Genesis 1, where God's life-giving Wind-Spirit fluttered over the chaotic waters, giving birth to new life. Similarly, new life emerges in the same manner. It's akin to the first creation of the world. We must trust in Jesus and patiently await in the Spirit, allowing the natural world to be fully broken. The power of the Spirit shatters the eggs wide open, enabling us to emerge from the narrow, dark, and blind world. We bid farewell to the world forever, knowing that it has been broken. We are now protected, growing, and learning to fly freely.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon

