

**The Gospel—Part 1**  
**John 3:7-15**

I. **The Father's P** \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7)

- a. Being born again is not just a Christian cliché; it's the spiritual transformation of your soul that occurs at salvation (cf. Ezek. 36:26-27; Col. 1:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18)
- b. **again = anōthen (ἀνωθεν) = "again, a repetition" or "from above, often implying from heaven"**
- c. "By our first birth we are corrupt, shapen in sin and iniquity; we must therefore undergo a second birth; our souls must be fashioned and enlivened anew...We must not think to patch up the old building, but begin from the foundation...We must have a new nature, new principles, new affections, new aims."  
(Matthew Henry)

II. **The Spirit's M** \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8)

- a. The same Greek word is used for both the **wind** and the Holy **Spirit**:
  - i. **pneuma (πνεῦμα) = the wind**
  - ii. **Pneuma (πνεῦμα) = the Holy Spirit**
    1. This is because the Spirit is the creative breath of God (cf. Gen. 1:1; Job 33:4; Ezek. 37:1-14; John 20:22; Acts 2:2)
- b. Jesus uses the physical properties of **wind** to describe the Holy Spirit's Mission:
  - i. You can't see either the **wind** or the Holy **Spirit**...but you can see their effects.
  - ii. Both the wind and the Spirit blow and affect whomever they choose (Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Ps. 5:10; 10:4; 14:1; 53:1-3; 81:15; Job 8:13; 21:15; Matt. 12:26; 13:38; 19:25-26; John 3:36; 6:44; 8:34, 44; Rom. 1:18, 30; 5:10; 6:17, 20; 8:7; 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 1:4; 2:1-3, 19; 4:18; 5:6; Col. 1:13, 21; 3:6; Titus 3:3; 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Tim. 1:9; 2 Tim. 3:4; James 4:4; 2 Peter 2:19; 1 John 3:10)

III. **The Son's A** \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 9-13)

- a. Nicodemus' skeptical reply in verse 9 shows that he was most likely not already saved and reborn by the Holy Spirit.
- b. Jesus rebukes him like the other blind shepherds of Israel in verse 10 (John 5:29-47; cf. Jer. 23:1; 50:6; Zech. 11:16-17; Isa. 56:11; Ezek. 34:2-10; Nahum 3:18)
- c. Jesus established His authority in verses 11 to 13:
  - i. As a member of the Godhead (**we, our**)
  - ii. As a Revealer of **earthly** and **heavenly things** (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14)
  - iii. As the only One who has **descended from heaven**
- d. "Revelation, not discovery, is the basis for faith" (Tenney)

IV. **Man's R** \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 14-15)

- a. Jesus refers to Numbers chapter 21 to the account of Moses **lifting up** a fiery serpent on a pole so that whoever looked upon him would be saved from God's wrath (cf. Num. 21)
  - i. The people sinned in rebellion (Num. 21:5; Rom. 3:23)
  - ii. God's wrath came in the form of deadly serpents (Num. 21:6; Rom. 6:23)
  - iii. God promises salvation for all those who BELIEVE His promise, represented by the bronze serpent on a pole (Num. 21:8; John 14:15; Eph. 2:8-9)
    1. Jesus was saying that this is an Old Testament picture of Him being **lifted up** on Calvary's Cross to suffer God's wrath for our sins (cf. John 8:28; 12:32, 34; 18:31-32)
- b. But sadly, too many ancient Jews and modern men and women, think that the crucifixion is foolishness, and they will not BELIEVE in Jesus Christ!