

The Most Crucial Work of the Spirit

John 3:1-8 & 14-17

Change is hard. _____ is even harder. Some people ____ want to change. John 3 tells of a man who wanted to make a change, but he didn't know how he could possibly do so.

Nicodemus was both a Pharisee and part of the Jewish ruling council. So, he was _____ and one of the top ____ religious leaders in Israel. Still, he knew he needed to make a change.

The fact that he came to seek Jesus seems _____. Most Pharisees and other religious leaders _____ and _____ Jesus. What Nicodemus said and what he wanted was _____. He believed Jesus was a teacher from God.

But the most amazing part of the story is how Jesus responded. He immediately told Nicodemus, "...no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." In the Bible, the kingdom of God is a _____ where God is and is in control. To enter there is to gain an _____ with the Father. To enter would require a radical _____—to be born again.

The phrase "_____" stumped Nicodemus. He wondered, how can I make such a change when I have spent all these years, all this time and energy, to become who I am?

Jesus' answer was simple and profound: "Unless you are born of water (_____ birth) and of the _____, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Here is the problem with the religions and the work-your-way-to-God systems that make up 99% of the world's misunderstandings about how to know God and eternal life. They involve what ____ for God. Faith in Christ involves what _____ in and to you. Here is the most _____ work of the Holy Spirit. He brings about the transformation of your life into a new _____—a kingdom creation—able to _____ to and be _____ by God.

No work can transform you and enable you to know God and experience His blessing. God's _____ is the only One who can.