

Joining a Group

Kind of Group

- Country
- K-12 School
- Higher Education
- Ministry (ACIV, Bridges)
- Career: teacher, electrician
- **Christian**

How you join

Born from Above

John 2:23-3:18

Brown/English: Page 1064

White/Spanish: Page 1350

Red/Chinese: Page 1720



John 2:23-3:18

23-25: Jesus: Not everyone who looks like a Christian is one

- 3:1-2: • Early experience of good things in Christianity can result in enthusiasm rather than a genuine change
- 3-8: • What does this actually look like?

9-15:

16-18:

John 2:23-3:18

23-25: Jesus: Not everyone who looks like a Christian is one

3:1-2:

3-8:

9-15:

16-18:

Pharisees

- A religious group in Judaism
- Deeply committed to God's "Law"
- Extremely careful to obey everything
- Powerful in society and in Judaism
- Highly honored by people
- Popular opinion: Among the most likely to please God

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3:1-2: Nicodemus: every visible indication of true faith

3-8:

9-15:

16-18:

John 2:23-3:18

23-25: Jesus: Not everyone who looks like a Christian is one

3:1-2: Nicodemus: every visible indication of true faith

3-8: Can't have life with God unless you are
 "born **from above**" (born **again**) by God's Spirit

9-15: • **ἄνωθεν**: "again" or "from above"

16-18: • "The one who comes **from above** is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes **from heaven** is above all." *John 3:31*

• **See=enter** Kingdom of God (be a child of God)

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9-15: • **πνεῦμα**: "wind" or "spirit" or "Spirit"

• God's work comes through God's Spirit

16-18:

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9-15: Life with God is only possible through Jesus,
 the only one who is from God (and who is God)

- 16-18:
- Being "born from above" is just the beginning:
 there are "heavenly things" to learn
 - Moses and the serpent: Numbers 21:4-9
 - Jesus will be "lifted up": to die and to be glorified

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16-18: How it works: The Son of God (Jesus) was sent to save
 people through belief in Jesus (rebirth),
 not to condemn people (the default position)

The Big Idea

BE

To become a Christian
AND LIVE
 one must be born from above

in the Spirit of God
 through faith in Jesus Christ

Not merely thinking, believing, or acting like a Christian

Application

- Becoming a Christian by the Spirit
 - **Not:** passing a test of belief, behavior, desire, ...
 - A work of God's Spirit as we entrust ourselves to Christ
 - Key: Believe in **and depend on** Jesus and the Spirit to bring us into relationship with God the Father
 - Evangelism: telling others this Good News
 - **Not:** primarily about correcting wrong beliefs or wrong actions, or convincing people to "join up"
 - **Rather:** introducing people to a relationship with God in Christ by the power of the Spirit

Application

- Becoming a Christian by the Spirit
- Being a Christian by the Spirit
 - Continuing to trust in Christ, and live in the Spirit
 - Early joy (easier to trust) may be replaced by sacrifice (harder to trust). So trust must grow...
 - Viewing other people based on this reality
 - Watch out for each other, even when all seems great
 - Be cautious about cultural values that seem like Kingdom values

The Big Idea

BE
To become a Christian
AND LIVE
one must be born from above
in the Spirit of God
through faith in Jesus Christ

“Since we live by the Spirit,
let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

We begin by the Spirit of God
Let us continue by the Spirit of God



“For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall
not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

I invite you:

- To begin life in God by being born from above by faith
- To continue life in God by entrusting yourself to the Spirit

