

Read Matthew Chapter 8.

It is packed with the fulfillment of God's promises. As you read through this passage, think about how our lives would be different if we really had faith that God works in these ways. It would radically change the way we live. It would take our faith to new places.

- 1) Where do you need to TRUST Jesus more?
- 2) Are there areas that need correction in your life?
- 3) What do you need to have faith for?

Come and You Will See

Born Again

Pastor Craig Sweeney | April 14, 2024

Topic: Born again

Thread: Respect for Jesus is not the same thing as faith.

Text: *“There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said, ‘we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.’ Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.’ ‘What do you mean?’ exclaimed Nicodemus, ‘How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?’ Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.’ ‘How are these things possible?’ Nicodemus asked. Jesus replied, ‘You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ‘For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.’”* **John 3:1 – 21 NLT**

Diving deeper: “Born again”—of the Spirit.

Romans 10:9 – 10 ESV

- I choose to place my faith in Jesus alone.
- Jesus paid my debt of sin and offers me forgiveness.
- “Justified” = My broken relationship with the Father is restored through forgiveness.
- Friendship with God begins.

“We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.”

1 John 1:1 – 4 NLT

You have been born again to friendship with God.

- How would your life change if your expectations changed regarding your relationship with God?

Challenge:

-How can I engage my faith for friendship with God?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resources

Life Group Homework

Come and You Will See

Spring 2024 | Week 3

Message Date 4/14/2024

MY STORY



- 1) Would you rather have a house cleaner or a personal chef? Why?
- 2) If you could go back and make a cave painting to confuse everyone in the future, what would you draw?

QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



- 4) Why is respect for Jesus different than faith in Jesus?

Respect: A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something.
Faith: Complete trust, assurance and/or confidence in someone or something.

- 5) How does the following play a factor in your faith?
 - a. Trust
 - b. Confidence
 - c. Assurance
- 6) What are things that challenge your faith or cause you to question your faith?
- 7) What do you do when you find yourself questioning or doubting your faith?

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT)

- 8) How can this passage shape our heart, mind and soul?