“You must Be Born Again”
John 3:7

Introduction:
A. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, shows interest in kingdom of God.
   1. Jesus evidently perceived this interest and immediately addresses it (v, 3)
   2. May have heard of preaching about kingdom. (Cf. Matt. 3:1,2; 4:17).
   3. Told that he must be “born again” to “see” and “enter” the kingdom.
B. The New Birth and the Kingdom of God are still hot topics today.
C. Jesus’ words to Nicodemus offer us some special insights into being born again.

Discussion:
I. The Purpose for Being Born Again.
   A. To “enter” or “see” the kingdom of God (vv. 3,5)
      1. Natural birth had put Nicodemus in Jewish kingdom
   B. Kingdom prophesied in O.T. (Dan. 2:44).
   C. Kingdom established in first century. (Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13).
   D. Kingdom, church, and salvation.
      1. Kingdom, light, redemption and forgiveness tied together (Col. 1:12-14)
      2. Kingdom and church the same (Matt. 16:18,19).

II. The Person Who Is Being Born Again.
   A. The inward man — the spirit. (vv. 4-8).
      1. Man is dual being (Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 4:16)
   B. Verse 8 describes person and not process of new birth — “so is everyone...”

III. The Process of Being Born Again.
   A. “Of water and the Spirit” (v. 5).
   B. Spirit operates through the gospel word in new birth (1 Pet. 1:23-25; 1 Cor. 4:15; cf. Eph. 6:17)
   C. Water and Spirit in great commission (Mk. 16:15,16).

IV. The Power Behind Being Born Again.
   A. The only begotten Son.
   B. Nicodemus still puzzled.
      1. Asks, “How can these things be?” (v. 9).
      2. Jesus answers that it can be because:
         a. He is the Son from God. (vv. 11-13).
         b. He would be lifted up (on cross) (vv. 14).
         c. He would give eternal life those who believed (v. 16).

Conclusion:
A. Do you believe in the Son of Man?
B. Have you been born of water and the Spirit?
C. Are you waiting for some “better felt than told” experience?

(This, and many other outlines, may be found at edssermonsandthings.com/sermons)