The New Birth

John introduces us to an intriguing character named Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee and a leader among the Jews. Nicodemus appears to be somewhat of a curious individual, seeking to understand more about the great teacher come from God, Jesus (John 3:1-2). John's narrative immediately moves into Jesus' statement, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Seemingly, Nicodemus is not just seeking to become religious, but rather seeking to understand what one must do to become a new person in Jesus.

Nicodemus appears to be confused about the statement Jesus makes. Jesus told him that must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God. Jesus takes the wind out of the sails of this "teacher of Israel" (John 3:10), as Nicodemus comes across as thinking being such was enough. Otherwise stated, Nicodemus conveys the impression that being a religious person was enough to make him spiritually right in the eyes of God.

Jesus proceeds to explain to Nicodemus the truth about the new birth, which is spiritual rebirth. Nicodemus is blessed that this "teacher come from God" (John 3:2) plainly and clearly made sure he understood what God required. Many are not so fortunate because they just simply will not follow the example of Nicodemus and listen to the words of God's teacher, Jesus. The New Testament contains the words of Jesus.

Jesus states, "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of

Isaiah is fulfilled which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hears and turn so that I should heal them" (Matthew 13:13-15). One can literally see in Nicodemus what Jesus is speaking of here in Matthew. Yet, it appears that Nicodemus was willing to hear and then put into action what Jesus explained (see John 7:45-52 and John 19:39-42).

We as Christians need to be like Nicodemus and cultivate a desire for Jesus and His word. This desire will prompt us to diligently seek Him and study His teachings to learn more about Him (Hebrews 11:1, 2 Timothy 2:15). Life will present us with confusing circumstances and situations. Nevertheless, we must always recognize where confusion comes from, the devil, and turn to God and His word for guidance (1 Corinthians 14:33). His word provides us with all things which pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).