

Jesus and Nicodemus	Definition	The Necessity of Regeneration
<p>1. Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at 1st Passover – came to Jesus by night - a Pharisee – educated in the word of God - a ruler of the Jews – a Sanhedrin member - the teacher of Israel – trained in theology <p>- His beliefs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the expected Messiah would bring in a new political reality ... not new life - being descendants of Abraham, the Jews were automatically sure of heaven <p>- was impressed with the <u>signs</u> Jesus was doing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knew Jesus was a teacher sent from God - knew that God was with Jesus <p>2. 2½ years later – at the Feast of Tabernacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - he spoke in defense of Jesus to Pharisees - he did not testify of his faith in Jesus - he appealed to a point of Jewish law (John 7:50-52) <p>3. 3rd year – final Passover – at Jesus' death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - he assisted Joseph of Arimathea with the preparations of Jesus' body and the burial - it was an open act of reverence and a public confession of his faith in Christ (John 19:39-42) 	<p>"... unless one is <u>born again</u> ..." (John 3:3, 7)</p> <p><u>"born"</u></p> <p>1080 γεννάω <i>gennao</i> ⇒ = to be born, to be begotten = to beget in a spiritual sense; i.e. the instrument of someone's conversion = to produce, to cause to arise</p> <p><u>"again"</u></p> <p>509 ἀνωθεν <i>anōthen</i> ⇒ = from above, from a higher place = anew, again, another time ↓ "a second time" (John 3:4)</p> <p>1208 δεύτερον <i>deuteros</i></p> <p><u>"born again"</u> (1 Peter 1:3, 23)</p> <p>313 ἀναγεννάω <i>anagennao</i> = to beget again, to be born anew = to give new birth</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>In a number of languages the use of "ἀναγεννάω" in the sense of 'to be born again spiritually' is extremely difficult for people to understand, even as it was in biblical times.</p> <p>However, the concept is such an integral element in so much NT thought and teaching that the expression should be retained, though it may very well require some brief marginal explanation or at least significant cross-referencing.</p> <p>- Greek-English Lexicon – Louw-Nida</p>	<p>1. It is absolutely vital – it <u>must</u> happen (John 3:7; Gal 6:15)</p> <p>2. Without a new birth, one is unable to see or enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5)</p> <p>3. What is born of the flesh is flesh Those in the flesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do the deeds of the flesh - set their minds on things of the flesh - this is death - this is hostile toward God - do not subject themselves to God - cannot please God - are enslaved to sin (John 3:6; Gal 5:19-21; Ro 8:5-9; John 8:34; Ro 6:17) <p>4. Apart from a new birth all people are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-3)</p> <p>5. The unregenerate person is totally unable to understand or accept the things of God and he is completely unable to change it (Jer 13:23; Mt 12:33; 1 Cor 2:14)</p> <p>6. Although a new birth is absolutely essential, it is impossible for a person to bring regeneration about or even to initiate it</p>