

**SUNDAY 27.10.2024**

**JOHN 2:23-25, 3:1-8 NIV**


**BORN AGAIN**

John 2:23-25 can be treated independently as a summary of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem, Jesus performed many signs, and as a result of these Miraculous signs, many people believed Jesus.

# Introduction.

- ▶ “But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for He knew all of them...” (John 2:25). Why?

▶ Their faith was superficial, it was based upon the visible signs that Jesus performed but did not extend to full acceptance of his claims.



▶ We can focus so much on the signs and works of Jesus and easily forget about his plan and purpose and what he wants us to do.

▶ John 3, Nicodemus approaches Jesus at night, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” (3:2).

▶ 3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (3:3) in other words, Jesus knew that Nicodemus was a religious Leader, firmly grounded in orthodox Judaism.

- ▶ “You must be born again”  
(New birth) (3:5), Jesus  
mentions two important  
elements involved in this.
- ▶ **‘Water and Spirit.’**



# Water

- Water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing and renewal. It represents the forgiveness of sins and the believer's new life in Christ.

For Baptists, baptism is a powerful symbol of the inner transformation that occurs through faith in Jesus.

▶ Through Ezekiel God said “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you,

▶ I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.  
(Ezekiel 36:25-27)

- ▶ In summary, the importance of baptism in Baptist beliefs lies in its symbolic significance, its role as an act of obedience to Christ, its function as a rite of initiation into the church,

▶ It's public testimony of faith, and its representation of spiritual cleansing and renewal. These aspects underscore the central place of baptism in the faith and practice of Baptists.

# Spirit

“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (3:8).

Jesus compared the new birth to our experience of the wind; both are known by their effects rather than by an understanding of the mechanism by which they happen.



There are many ways in which  
the Holy Spirit works in us;

- ▶ Renewing our minds to be  
like the mind of Christ.
- ▶ Convicting us of sin and  
leading us to repentance.

- ▶ Through repentance, He allows us to bear good fruit. (The Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22)
- ▶ As we allow him to continue nourishing that fruit, we grow to resemble Jesus more.

▶ The Holy Spirit also works in us through the word of God. He uses the power of Scripture to convict us and influence our way of thinking. He does this to shape us into godly people. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says that “All Scripture is inspired by God ...

# Conclusion

- ▶ God is looking for a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart ...(Psalm 51:17) to put together, to revive, to restore.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 3:13-14).