

You Belong

JULY 21 & 22, 2012 • M. CRAIG BARNES

John 3:1-10

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “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.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 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.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

Romans 8:12-17

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation — but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.



Daily Meditations

Monday

This week we're going to do something a little different. Each day we'll read one Psalm and then answer a series of questions. Today, please read Psalm 62.

What is the psalmist's main topic in this psalm?

What passage in this psalm challenges you?

What passage in this psalm encourages you?

Write down two principles from this psalm that you want to meditate on today.

Thank God today that He is your rock and your salvation. Pray that you will grow in faith and that your soul will truly find rest in God alone.

Tuesday

Today, please read Psalm 30. What is the psalmist's main topic in this psalm?

What passage in this psalm challenges you?

What passage in this psalm encourages you?

Write down two principles from this psalm that you want to meditate on today.

Thank God today for His help and care. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you feel like you need mercy. Pray for patience to wait God's help.

Wednesday

Today, please read Psalm 19. What is the psalmist's main topic in this psalm?

What passage in this psalm challenges you?

What passage in this psalm encourages you?

Write down two principles from this psalm that you want to meditate on today.

Thank God today for the amazing creation all around you. Thank Him for the opportunity to study His word and pray that you'll treat His words as "more precious than gold."

Thursday

Today, please read Psalm 4. What is the psalmist's main topic in this psalm?

What passage in this psalm challenges you?

What passage in this psalm encourages you?

Write down two principles from this psalm that you want to meditate on today.

Thank God today for His faithfulness to you. Pray that you will live (and sleep!) in peace because you know that God is with you and He is faithful.

Friday

Today, please read Psalm 121. What is the psalmist's main topic in this psalm?

What passage in this psalm challenges you?

What passage in this psalm encourages you?

Write down two principles from this psalm that you want to meditate on today.

Thank God today for His presence with you at all times. Pray that you will live in an awareness of God's presence and that it will impact your attitude and actions today.

Saturday

Please read 1 Peter 3:8–10 to prepare for the services this weekend. What initially strikes you in this passage?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that everything we do will work together to point people to God. Pray also that the art show will be a time of encouragement for everyone who participates and sees it.



Memory Verse

"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" *Romans 8:15 NIV*