



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

Understanding His Person,  
His Presence and His Power

## GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AND REGENERATION (JOHN 3:1-8)**

DATE

**JANUARY 22, 2017**

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:1-8)*

1. Using only these 8 verses in John, describe the kind of person that Nicodemus was. Was he like you in any way? If you were to encounter a person very much like Nicodemus today, how would he or she behave?
2. Nicodemus also appears later in John's gospel in **John 7:50** and **19:39**. What more do we learn about his life from those passages?
3. Define in your own words the term, "**regeneration**," in a way that you understand.
4. In the encounter with Nicodemus, the Pharisee represents religion morality and good deeds. How did Jesus specifically speak to the ineffectiveness of these kinds of things being able to save?
5. Imagine for a moment that you are a pastor here at Harvest. As part of your day you meet with someone who wants to be baptized, and they tell you, "I've been a Christian my whole life." How would you respond?
6. If you (or friends who come to you) are not sure whether you have been born again, what would Scripture encourage you to do in order to gain greater assurance (or to be truly born again for the first time)?
7. Compare **John 3** with **Ezekiel 36:26-27** and **2 Corinthians 4:1-6**. What truth is highlighted in all three of those passages?
8. Read **Ephesians 2:4-5** and **Colossians 2:13**, and underline which statement below you think to be most accurate.

*"If you believe in Christ as your Saviour, then (after you believe) you will be born again," or*  
*"If you are born again, then (after that work) you will believe in Christ as your Saviour"*
9. Have you thought before that regeneration is prior to saving faith? Are you convinced of it now, or is there still some question in your mind?