

Sermon: New Life in Christ

Text: [John 3:1-7 ESV](#)

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You Must Be Born Again

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus[a] 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.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again[b] he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ 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?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You[d] must be born again.’

Footnotes: {a} [John 3:2](#) Greek him

{b} [John 3:3](#) Or from above; the Greek is purposely ambiguous and can mean both again and from above; also verse 7

{c} [John 3:6](#) The same Greek word means both wind and spirit

{d} [John 3:7](#) The Greek for you is plural here

Introduction: From a Christian perspective, a person is not genuinely alive just because there is medical evidence. **Illus. Lee Baker** - all the machines in the ICU were keeping Lee “alive.” At one point, I had to ask, “is he still alive?” and the nurse said “no, he is gone” (yet all the machines were still showing heart rate and respiration). And with all deference to Tony Campolo there has to be more than passion to define life. A person can be passionate about the wrong issues and beliefs. My yelling and shouting a sermon at you would not make what I have to say more valid, or true, **OR LIFE**. The advice that “when a point is weak – shout like the devil,” doesn’t make something helpful or life-giving!

Peter talks about “the grace of God which gives life” (**[I Peter 3:7](#)**). New life “in Christ” by definition - must be different. Even the word used in the Greek: **ZOE** is different than **BIOS**. **Zoe** refers always to a supernatural (God-given) gift that transforms and transcends physical existence.

Henry David Thoreau said, “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.” (*Where I Lived, and What I Lived For*)