

1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish **religious leader** who was **a Pharisee**. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that **God has sent you to teach us**. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." 3 Jesus replied, **"I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."**

bfc:

Nicodemus was; a Jew, a Religious Leader and a Pharisee.

He went to speak with Jesus "after dark" - How come after dark, why not during the daytime, was there fear or shame involved in this meeting?

Jesus was sent to teach and His miraculous signs were evidence He was from God. Why can't we believe without "seeing" miraculous signs? Don't a lot of people "seek" signs and have false experiences because their heart is not "seeking" salvation, which comes from true repentance and asking forgiveness of their sins?

People can get caught up in the "moment" because of emotional feelings due to some spectacular event or speaker. Having an "experience" or an emotional moment, is not the same as accepting Jesus as your personal Savior, confessing your sins and asking Him into your heart. Please don't confuse these two things.

When you truly accept Jesus as your Savior (born again), there won't be any doubts about your salvation and that you are bound for Heaven, your final destination, (The Kingdom of God). I know in my early years of life, (before I was born again, saved) I had several "experiences" because of what I was listening to and who I was hanging out with. I went through several years "hoping I was saved" and had some outward appearances of a "religious person" but inside I was still lost.

I don't want to be religious, I want to be like Jesus, and the only way I can do this is through spending time with Him and His Word. Even as I write these very words, I deal with "stuff" and things in my life I still need victory over. There will always be things I need to change in my life, things Jesus deals with me about (even on a daily basis sometimes) that I have not won the battle over yet, thank God for Grace and Forgiveness. Keep on keeping on. Philippians 3:12.

The Lord recognized in Nicodemus an earnest desire to know the truth. The Bible does not say why Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. The most obvious explanation is that he would have been embarrassed to be seen going to Jesus, since the Lord had by no means been accepted by the majority of the Jewish people. HOWEVER, he did come to Jesus.

In spite of all his learning, Nicodemus did not recognize the Lord as God manifest in the flesh. He was like so many today who say that Jesus was a great man, a wonderful teacher, an outstanding example. All of these statements fall very far short of the full truth. Jesus was and is God.

Our Lord is saying, "Nicodemus, you have come to Me for teaching, but what you really need is to be born again. That is where you must begin. You must be born from above. Otherwise, you can never see the Kingdom of God."

The Lord informed Nicodemus that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, a man must be born again. Just as the first birth is necessary for physical life, so a second birth is necessary for divine life.

In other words, Christ's kingdom can only be entered by those whose lives have been changed. Since His reign will be a righteous one, His subjects must be righteous also. He could not reign over people who were going on in their sins.

Born Again!

John 3:4-7

Page Three

4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be **born again**?"⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being **born of water and the Spirit**. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say,

'You must be born again.'

bfc:

Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus was telling him, because he couldn't. We won't understand what the Bible and God speaks to us through His Word (Jesus is the Word) unless we know the "author of the Bible-Jesus". After we are "**born again**", the Holy Spirit that dwells within us, (the comforter Jesus left us) will teach us what Jesus is saying to us.

Just like we are studying God's Word right now; we read slowly and take our time a few verses at a time. Don't get in a hurry, discernment is more important than distance. What I mean is, it's a lot more meaningful and important to you and I, to "**understand**" a few words and scriptures than to read several chapters, then walk away with several questions and no real revelation of what Jesus wanted to tell us.

He wants to give us guidance and encouragement to press on in our Christian faith and walk. When we understand what He is saying, we grow and mature as Christians and therefore we can help others do the same. Let's see what the commentary has to say today.

This is going to be a "lengthy" lesson, so get your coffee and sit back and soak in learning at the feet of Jesus. We will even be going into Romans to get better understanding of being born again - saved.

Believers Bible Commentary:

Here again we see how difficult it was for men to understand the words of the Lord Jesus. Nicodemus insisted on taking everything literally. He could not understand how a grown-up could be born again. He pondered the physical impossibility of a man entering his mother's womb again in order to be born.

Nicodemus illustrates that "the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor. 2:14)

Physical birth is not enough. There must also be a spiritual birth if one is to enter the kingdom of God. This spiritual birth is produced by the Holy Spirit of God when a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even if Nicodemus could in some way have entered into his mother's womb a second time and been born a second time, that would not have corrected the evil nature in him. The expression that which is born of the flesh is flesh means that children born of human parents are born in sin and are hopeless and helpless as far as saving themselves is concerned. On the other hand, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. A spiritual birth takes place when a person trusts in the Lord Jesus.

When a person is born again through the Spirit, he receives a new nature, and is made fit for the Kingdom of God.

Rom 8:5-28

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. 9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. The Future Glory 18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. 28 Those who live according to the flesh, that is, those who are unconverted (not saved, not born again) are concerned with the things of the flesh. They obey the impulses of the flesh. They live to gratify the desires of the corrupt nature. They cater to the body, which in a few short years will return to dust.

Believers Bible Commentary on Roman Scriptures:

But those who live according to the Spirit, that is, true believers, rise above flesh and blood and live for those things that are eternal. They are occupied with the Word of God, prayer, worship and Christian Service.

To be carnally minded, that is, the mental inclination of the fallen nature, is death. It is death as far as both present enjoyment and ultimate destiny are concerned. It has all the potential of death in it, just like an over dose of poison. But to be spiritually minded is life and peace. The Spirit of God is the guarantee of life that is life indeed, of peace with God, and of a life of tranquility.

The mind-set of the flesh is death because it is enmity against God. The sinner is a rebel against God and in active hostility to Him. The mind of the flesh is not subject to the law of God. It wants its own will, not God's will. It wants to be its own master, not to bow to His rule. Its nature is such that it cannot be subject to God's law. It is not only the inclination that is missing but the power as well. The flesh is dead toward God.

It is no surprise, therefore, that those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Think of that! There is nothing an unsaved person can DO to please God! No good works, no religious observances, no sacrificial services, absolutely NOTHING.

First he must take the guilty sinner's place and receive Christ by a definite act of faith. Only then can He win God's smile of approval. When a person is born again, he is no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit. He lives in a different sphere

Just as a fish lives in water and a man lives in the air, so a believer lives in the Spirit. He not only lives in the Spirit, but the Spirit lives in him. In fact, if he is not indwelt by the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Through the ministry of the Spirit, Christ is ACTUALLY IN THE BELIEVER. It is amazing to think of the Lord of life and glory dwelling in our bodies, especially when we remember that bodies are subject to death because of sin. Someone may argue that they are not dead yet, as the verse seems to say. No, but the forces of death are already working in them, and they will inevitably die if the Lord doesn't return in the meantime.

But the reminder that the body is still subject to death need cause no alarm or despair. The fact that the Holy Spirit indwells our bodies is a guarantee that, just as He raised Christ from the dead, so He will also give life to our mortal bodies. This will be the final act of our redemption, when our bodies are glorified like the Savior's body of glory.

There is a spiritual instinct in the newborn believer that he is a son of God. The Holy Spirit tells him that it is so. The Spirit Himself bears witness with the believer's spirit that he is a member of God's family. He does it primarily through the Word of God. As a Christian reads the Bible, the Spirit confirms the truth that, because he has trusted the Savior, he is now a child of God.

Membership in God's family brings privileges that boggle the mind. All God's children are heirs of God. An heir, of course, eventually inherits his father's estate. That is just what is meant here. All that the Father has is ours. We have not yet come into the possession and enjoyment of all of it, but nothing can prevent our doing so in the future. And we are joint heirs with Christ.

When Paul adds, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together, he is not making heroic suffering a condition for salvation (being born again). Neither is he describing some elite inner circle of overcomers who have endured great afflictions. Rather, he sees all Christians as being co-suffers and all Christians as glorified with Christ. The "if" is equivalent to "since". Of course, there are some who suffer more than others in the cause of Christ, and this will result in differing degrees of reward and glory.

Just as we are sustained by this glorious hope, so the Spirit sustains us in our weaknesses. We are often perplexed in our prayer life. We do not know how to pray as we should. We pray selfishly, ignorantly, narrowly. But once again the Spirit comes alongside to assist us in our weaknesses, interceding for us with groaning which cannot find expression. In this verse it is the Spirit who groans and not we who groan, though that is also true.

There is a mystery here. We are peering into the unseen, spiritual realm where a great Person and great forces are at work on our behalf. And although we cannot understand it all, we can take infinite encouragement from the fact that a groan may sometimes be the most spiritual prayer.

If God searches the hearts of men, He can also interpret the mind of the Spirit, even though that mind finds expression only in groans. The important thing is that the Holy Spirit's prayers for us are always according to the will of God. And because they are always in accordance with God's will, they are always for our good.

8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." 9 "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. 10 Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things?

Believers Bible Commentary:

As He so often did, the Lord Jesus used nature to illustrate spiritual truth. He reminded Nicodemus that the wind blows where it wishes, and a person can hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.

The new birth is very much like the wind. The new birth is invisible. You cannot see it taking place, but you can see the results of it in a person's life. When a man has been saved, a change comes over him. The evil things which he formerly loved, he now hates. The things of God which he formerly despised, these things are now the very things which he loves. Just as no one can fully understand the wind, so the new birth is a miraculous work of the Spirit of God which man is not able to comprehend fully. Moreover, the new birth, like the wind, is unpredictable. It is not possible to state just when and where it will take place.

Again Nicodemus illustrated the inability of the natural mind to enter into divine things. Doubtless he was still trying to think of the new birth as a natural or physical event, rather than as a spiritual one. And so he asked the Lord Jesus: "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered that as the teacher of Israel, Nicodemus should have understood these things. The OT Scriptures clearly taught that when the Messiah came back to the earth to set up His Kingdom, He would first judge His enemies and destroy all things that offend. Only those who had confessed and forsaken their sins would enter the Kingdom.

11 I assure you, **we** tell you what **we** know and have seen, and yet you won't believe **our** testimony. 12 But if you don't believe Me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven.

Bfc:

The first thing I see in these scriptures are the Trinity speaking - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Notice in verse three how the words **"we" and "our"** is used. We see here once again, how it is impossible to "understand" the things of God and His Word if we don't know Him as our Savior, if we have not been "born again".

Jesus taught in parables (stories) to teach us about His ways. Once our eyes are opened to the truths of Jesus, thereafter **we have the free choice to accept what He tells us or ignore it**. What I mean is this; we get born again, and we now have eternal salvation, we are going to Heaven, no one can take that away from us. Jesus died on the cross for all our sins, past, present and future. But "if" we don't listen to the Holy Spirit of God within us, when He tells us to change some of our ways and stop the sin in our lives, our hearts will get hard and eventually we won't even hear Him.

We are still "saved-born again", but we won't walk in the joy, peace and blessings God has for us, because of disobedience. God won't make us do anything, He will lovingly guide us and speak to us until we turn Him away because of a deaf ear and cold hard heart. Then He will allow us to go our own way and we will also pay the price for disobedience, we walked away from Him, He never left us. We have a free will, we can't go around blaming God for a lot of things that happen in our lives.

I'm going to share an example of someone's messed up life here. My husband was sharing with me yesterday about a man that blamed God for his messed up life. He married a woman who was a Christian (and he claims to be, but there is no evidence of it at all!). They ended up divorced and now he blames God and even calls her horrible names. He says he will never set foot in a church again, they're all hypocrites.

Excuse me!! God didn't make them get divorced or make them get married in the first place. They had free wills, and "if" they had been serving God and "listening to the Holy Spirit", God may, or may not have even told them it was His will for them to be married. This guy has such an ugly attitude, full of hate; I find myself getting very angry when I hear about what he has to say, and hearing the anger and seething revenge that flows out of his heart. That's not a person that is full of God's loving grace, peace and love.

Believers Bible Commentary:

Only one person was qualified to speak about heavenly things, since He was the only One who was in heaven. The Lord Jesus was not merely a human teacher sent from God, but He was One who lived with God the Father from all eternity, and came down into the world.

Jesus ascended to heaven by His own power. Another explanation is that no human being had access to the presence of God continually in the way which He did. Even as the Lord Jesus stood on earth, speaking with Nicodemus, He said that He was in heaven. How could this be? Here is a statement of the fact that, as God, the Lord was in all places at one and the same time. This is what we mean when we say that He is omnipresent.

14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

16 "For **God loved** the world so much that he **gave** his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have **eternal life**. **17. God sent his Son** into the world **not to judge** the world, **but to save** the world through him.

bfc:

This scripture is probably one of the most well known verses in the Bible. Most people can quote it, and at the same time pay very little attention to what it means. This kind of love is unfathomable to me. This gift of eternal life is for anyone that asks and believes. God came to save "the world", but this doesn't mean everyone in the world will "believe" and be saved. We have a free will and we choose our final destination, heaven or hell. Choose this day whom you will serve.

Believers Bible Commentary:

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent of brass on a pole in the wilderness when all the children of Israel had been bitten by snakes, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. As they wandered through the wilderness to the promised land, the children of Israel became discouraged and impatient. They complained against the Lord. To punish them, the Lord send fiery serpents among them, and many people died. When the survivors cried to the Lord in repentance, the Lord told Moses to make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. The bitten Israelite who looked to the serpent was miraculously healed.

Jesus quoted this OT incident to illustrate how the new birth takes place. Man and women have been bitten by the viper of sin and are condemned to eternal death. The serpent of brass was a type or picture of the Lord Jesus. Brass, in the Bible, speaks of judgment. The Lord Jesus was sinless and should never have been punished, but He took our place and bore the judgment which we deserved.

The pole speaks of the cross of Calvary on which the Lord Jesus was lifted up. We are saved by looking to Him in faith. The Savior was made sin for us, He who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness (right standing with God) of God in Him. Whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ receives eternal life as a free gift.

The words are added, "whoever believes in Him should not perish". There is no need for anyone to perish. A way has been provided by which all might be saved, but a person must acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. When he does this, he has eternal life as a present possession.

The work of the Lord Jesus on the cross was of such tremendous value that all sinners everywhere could be saved if they would receive Him.

John 3:18-21

18 "There is **no judgment against anyone who believes in him**. **But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son**. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 **All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed**. 21 **But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."**

bfc: What does judgment mean? How will the lost person be judged?

Believers Bible Commentary:

Now all mankind is divided into two classes: either believers or unbelievers. Our eternal destiny is determined by the attitude we take toward the Son of God. The one who trusts the Savior is not condemned, but the one who does not trust Him is condemned already.

The Lord Jesus has finished the work of salvation, and now it is up to each individual to decide whether he will accept Him or reject Him. It is a terrible thing to reject such a gift of love. If a man will not believe on the Lord Jesus, God can do nothing else but condemn him.

Believing in His name is the same as believing in Him. In the Bible, the name stands for the person. If you trust His name, you trust Him.

Jesus is the light who came into the world. He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. He died for the sins of all the world. But do men love Him for this? No—they resent Him. They prefer their sins to having Jesus as Savior, and so they reject Him. Just as some creeping things scurry away from the light, so wicked men flee from the presence of Christ.

Those who love sin hate the light, because the light exposed their sinfulness. When Jesus was here in the world, sinful men were made uncomfortable by His presence because He revealed their awful condition by His own holiness. The best way to reveal the crookedness of one stick is to place a straight stick beside it. Coming into the world as a Perfect Man, the Lord Jesus revealed the crookedness of all other men, by comparison.

If a man is truly honest before God, he will come to the light, that is the Lord Jesus, and realize his own utter worthlessness and sinfulness. then he will trust the Savior for himself, and thus be born again through faith in Christ.

John 3:22-24

22 Then **Jesus and his disciples** left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. **Jesus spent some time with them** there, baptizing people.²³ **At this time John the Baptist was baptizing** at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and **people kept coming to him for baptism.**²⁴ (This was before John was thrown into prison.)

bfc:

Jesus spends time alone with his disciples and does some baptizing. Who are the "people" He baptized if He was spending time with His disciples, teaching them? Let's find out the answer to that question when we get into the commentary notes.

Here we see the Son of God pouring His life "into" the men He called to follow Him. As leaders in serving God, we need more fellowship and teaching and growth in His Word, in order to learn how to be like Jesus and lead by His Spirit. If we expect others to follow, we have to lead with the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God and have discipline, commitment and faithfulness in our lives. People are watching us, Lord help us not to cause anyone to stumble because of anything we may have done in disobedience. How much time do you spend in fellowship with Jesus? Ask Him to change your heart and help you "make more time" to be with Him.

Believers Bible Commentary:

From this verse to the end of the chapter, John describes Christ's ministry in Judea, where doubtless He continued to proclaim the good news of salvation. As men came to the light, they were baptized.

The John referred to in this verse is John the Baptist. He was still preaching his message of repentance in the region of Judea and baptizing those Jews who were willing to repent in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

John 3:25-28

25 A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing.²⁶ So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. **And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.**"²⁷ John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.²⁸ You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.

bfc:

Beware of allowing yourself to get "into" any debates regarding religion or the Bible. Also beware of the possibility of competition between ministries within the church. Satan loves discord and without the Holy Spirit of God working within us, people can get in the way of what God's plans are, no matter what ministry you serve in within the church. The Bible also tells us to "put others first". If we can remember this, it helps keep us in our place of service and keeps pride and self where it belongs, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **Serve with peace and harmony, submit to authority and have no personal agendas. Point people to Jesus, it's all about HIM.**

Believers Bible Commentary:

The argument was whether the baptism of John was better than that of Jesus. Which baptism had the greater power? Which was of greater value? Perhaps some of John's disciples unwisely contended that no baptism could be better than that of their master. Perhaps the Pharisees tried to make John's disciples jealous of Jesus and His current popularity.

They came to John for a decision. They seemed to be saying to him, "If your baptism is the better, why is it that so many men are leaving you and going to Jesus?" John bore witness to the Lord Jesus, and as a result of this witness, many of John's own disciples left him and began to follow Jesus.

John never claimed that his baptism was superior to that of Jesus. He simply said here that he did not have anything but what he had received from heaven. That is true of all of us, and there is no reason in the world why we should be proud or seek to build up ourselves in men's esteem.

John 3:29-31

29 It is the **bridegroom who marries the bride**, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. **30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.** 31 "He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. **We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things**, but he has come from heaven and is **greater than anyone else**.

bfc:

Seems we are going to get some lessons in humility and killing pride again. Since this subject comes up so often in the Word of God, evidently I am not the only person that has to deal with it, He is speaking to all of us all the time.

It sounds simple, right? Put Him first all the time and it will put us last and keep us in our place of humility and servant hood. Is this as simple as it sounds? NO! Why? Because of the sinful nature we were born with, but we have help! We have Jesus and the Comforter, the Holy Spirit that dwells within in us, this is our help in time of any need. The clincher is this, we can't just go to Him when we are in trouble or with a wish list, you have to spend time with Him and get to know Him and His will for you personally, **it takes time**.

I don't understand how it all works, I just know that if your saved (born again) and you are open to listening to what God and His Holy Spirit says to you, (don't harden your heart when He convicts or speaks, or you will get calloused and get where you can't hear Him anymore) He will help you with all your weaknesses and failings. His grace is sufficient.

Just this past week I was dealing with the word "**forgiveness**". I heard it over and over and over again and again for about a week, and the confirmation that I needed to "do it" towards someone came from the sermon on Sunday. If I didn't obey what the Holy Spirit was telling me to do, I was going to be in some soul trouble. Forgiveness toward someone that has hurt you is HARD. Anyone we talk to can attest to this.

We have to "do it" by faith and expect and believe God to handle what happens "after" our obedience and faithfulness. So I can say, I did obey and when I did, it was not done in the way I had "imagined" I would have to do. It was brief and simple and to the point, and that was it, it's over and the rest is up to God. My part is, "if" and when it comes up, (the pain and hurt) I have to be faithful to think on things that are holy, pure, just, good and thank God for forgiveness and move on. If you continue to talk or think about it all the time, you have not "forgiven the person".

Believers Bible Commentary:

The Lord Jesus Christ was the bridegroom. John the Baptist was merely the friend of the bridegroom, the "best man." The bride does not belong to the friend of the bridegroom, but rather to the bridegroom himself.

Therefore, it was fitting that the people follow Jesus rather than John. The bride was used here to refer in a general way to all who would become disciples of the Lord Jesus. In the NT, those who are members of Christ's church are described under the figure of the bride.

It was with great joy for John to listen to the bridegrooms voice. He was satisfied that Jesus receive all the attention. His joy was fulfilled when Christ was praised and honored by men.

The entire object of John's ministry is summarized in verse 30. He labored ceaselessly to point men and women to the Lord, and to make them realize His true worth. In doing this, John realized that he must keep himself in the background. For a servant of Christ to seek to attract attention to himself is really a form of disloyalty.

He who comes from above is above all: Christ is the supreme Sovereign of the universe. It is only proper, therefore, that men should follow Him rather than the messenger.

John 3:32-35

32 **He (Jesus) testifies** about what He has seen and heard, but how **few believe** what He tells them! **33 Anyone who accepts His testimony can affirm that God is true.**34 For He is sent by God. **He speaks God's words, for God gives Him the Spirit without limit.**35 The Father loves his Son and has put **everything into his hands.**36 And anyone who believes in God's Son has **eternal life.** Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under **God's angry judgment."**

bfc:

ONE WAY TO GOD AND HEAVEN - Through accepting Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior. Simply put. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit of God has given you new insights and revelation about Jesus and God. We will be wrapping up this chapter with thanksgiving and gratitude for God having sent His Son for us and for giving us the Written Word, which is same as having Jesus talk directly, one on one to each of us.

WOW, what an awesome Father we have, not only did He give us His one and only Son, but He went even further and sent us the Holy Spirit to abide in us AND the road map and instruction guide to help us live in this wicked world=The Bible.

This is a great book to share with any saved-born again Christian, it "builds upon" and affirms the life and hope we have in Jesus and the security of knowing when we die, we will have eternal life in heaven, forever, no doubt about it! Shake some salt, share His Word by your each new day by your actions and Godly lifestyle.

Believers Bible Commentary:

When people accept the message of the gospel, they take sides with God against themselves and against the rest of mankind. they realize that if God has said something, it must be true. Notice how clearly verse 33 teaches the deity of Christ. It says that whoever believes the testimony of Christ acknowledges that God is true. This is just another way of saying that the testimony of Christ is the testimony of God, and to receive the one is to receive the other also.

Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit of God in a way that was not true of any other person. Others have been conscious of the help of the Holy Spirit in their ministry, but no one else ever had such a Spirit-filled ministry as the Son of God. The prophets received a partial revelation from God but "the Spirit revealed in and by Christ the very wisdom, the very heart of God to man with all its infinitude of love".

God has given Christ the power to grant everlasting life to all who believe on Him. This is one of the clearest verses in all the Bible on how a person can be saved. It is SIMPLY BY BELIEVING IN THE SON OF GOD.

As we read this verse, we should realize that God is speaking. He is making a promise that can never be broken. He says, clearly and distinctly, that anyone who believes in His Son has everlasting life. To accept this promise is not a leap in the dark. It is simply believing what could not possibly be false. Those who do NOT obey the Son of God "shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on them already". From this verse we learn that our eternal destiny depends on what we do with the Son of God. If we receive Him, God gives us eternal life as a FREE GIFT. If we reject Him, we will never enjoy everlasting life, and not only so, but God's wrath already hangs over us, ready to fall at any moment. Notice that there is nothing in this verse about "keeping the law, obeying the Golden Rule, going to church, doing the best we can, or working our way to heaven".