**John 3:1-6** ***There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 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.” 3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, 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, “Most assuredly, 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.***

God has blessed us today! We’ve been part of a Baptism, the outward expression of inner belief. In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist says *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.* Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit. It’s His baptism that opens the door to Heaven.

Verses 1-2 says *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 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.”* Nicodemus is a Pharisee and a Sanhedrin. This makes him a ruler, very high status, lots of worldly praise. He comes by night because he’s afraid of what the world might think, afraid of losing his status. He comes in secret having seen the miracles, but something larger is drawing him, an urgency to know Jesus. He says - Rabbi You are a teacher come from God. He doesn’t recognize the Savior come from God yet, but he will. By John 19, Nicodemus will publicly claim the body of Jesus. For now, he thinks Jesus is just a teacher. People still have the same issue today. They say, “I like Jesus the teacher, Jesus the friend, Jesus the miracle worker… but I’m not ready to call Him Savior.” We must believe Him Savior… if we are to be saved.

Now, there’s a conversation in verses 3-6 *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, 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, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* Jesus says, “You must be born again.” In order for us to be born of the Spirit, we must first be born naturally. We can’t be born again, unless we are born the first time. When we’re born the first time, in the flesh, most gain certain abilities. Sight, smell, taste, the ability to perceive, to interact with the natural world. If we’re never born into this natural world, we have no awareness of this natural world. But our flesh is born into sin, and does not yet possess the spirit. So it makes great sense what Jesus said – in order to have the ability to perceive, to interact with a different world, the very Kingdom of God, we must be born again, but this time of the spirit. As we cannot physically interact, unless we have been physically born. Likewise, we cannot spiritually interact unless we have been spiritually born. Jesus says, “I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, but by Me.” In order to come to the Father, we must believe and be reborn through the Son. There’s no other way.

Newborn children learn quickly. A child is teachable. Curiosity and wonder come naturally. If you’ve ever had a four year old ask, “Why? Why? Why?”, you know they want to understand, grasp, truly perceive this world. Therefore, it makes perfect sense, that, being born again of the spirit will lead us as newborns to seek to understand the new relationship we’ve been born into. Before belief, we are children of wrath. When we believe, our relationship is transformed. We are reborn as children of God, adopted, grafted in as sons and daughters of the King. With rebirth comes a hunger to experience this Kingdom we’re pursuing. We become teachable and the Holy Spirit instructs us in Christ’s teachings.

That which is born of flesh is flesh. But, when we are born again, there’s a new creation living inside. That which is born of Spirit is spirit. Flesh is dark. Spirit is light. They’re different as night and day. As the spirit takes control, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control is the fruit we produce for all the world to see.

Today has been a blessed day. We’re celebrating the birth of one of God’s own, a child of Light. May we find that we’re more open to God’s speaking. Know this, that which is spirit cannot be born from that which is flesh. If you have never placed your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, come and do that today. May we all be Spirit-filled, seeking the wondrous Eternal Kingdom like wide-eyed, newborn babes this week and always.