

“When is Your Spiritual Birthday?”

Based on John 3:1-8 (NIV)

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John 3:1-2

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

† **Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, which was the most strict and traditional Jewish religious groups of the time.**

† **Not all the Pharisees were against Jesus.**

John 3:3-4

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

John 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

† **Physical birth is given to us through the intimacy of human love.**

† **Spiritual birth, being born again, is given to us through the intimacy of loving God.**

John 3:7-8

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 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."

† **A literal translation for “born again” is also “born from above.”**

† **I may not look different when I have been born from above, but I feel different for God has made me a new creation.**

† **When I am born spiritually, I am not the full-size but beginning the spiritual growth process through the love God gives to me.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When is my Spiritual Birthday?

- Do I remember it or was it like my physical birth (Don't remember it but I know it happened.)
- Was my realization sudden or gradual?

† Where am I in the process in my physical life? (Child, teenager, or adult.)

† Where am I in the process in my spiritual life? (Pre-Natal {Not yet spiritually born}, infancy, toddler, child, teenager, or adult.)

† What is one thing I can do this week to help me continue to grow spiritually?