

As you read...

What does it mean to be spiritually born or spiritually alive? That's a good question to ask. It seems a similar question must have been on Nicodemus' mind, too, as he was talking with Jesus here in John 3.

As the conversation begins, it appears that Nicodemus believes they are just talking about physical life as they talk about physical birth. The concept of spiritual birth or *life* does not even appear on his radar until Jesus brings up the subject.

Jesus begins to answer Nicodemus' curiosity by referring to an event in the time of Moses where the Israelites were close to physical death (you read about this in Numbers 21:4-9). It was there that the Israelites had been bitten by snakes and were about to die until God told Moses to mount a bronze snake on a pole and hold it above the people. As the people looked toward the snake, they were healed.

While the Israelites were suffering physically from a snake bite, we have our own spiritual snake bite that's killing us spiritually: our sin.

So what do we do? We look to Jesus.

Here in John 3, Jesus shares with Nicodemus that just as the snake was lifted up in the desert for the Israelites to be healed, so will Jesus be lifted up on the cross so that all who look to Him and believe in Him will find *life* – both physically *and* spiritually now and, most importantly, in eternity.

Once again, *life* is found in and given through Jesus.

Read [John 3:1-21](#)

Jesus and Nicodemus

¹There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to him at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴ “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How can these things be?” asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰ “Are you a teacher of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied. ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, we speak what we

know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven –the Son of Man.

*¹⁴ “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal **life**. ¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal **life**. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”*

Questions

1. What would you say is the main thing Jesus wants Nicodemus to take away from this conversation between the two? Look specifically at verses 14-21.

2. Think about things that you own. Maybe it's a phone, a video game system, or at some point even a car. Consider for a moment what it means that you *have* or *own* those things.

Now take a look at verses 15 and 16. Twice Jesus uses the phrase “*have* eternal life” when He talks about those who believe in Him.

- What do you think it means to *have* or *own* *life* according to what you hear Jesus say in this passage?
3. If you own something, you take care of it. You make sure it stays up to date and nice. I think back to the way Andy takes care of Woody in the movie *Toy Story*.
 - What are some ways you can take care of the eternal *life* that God has given to you?
 - What pieces of your life do you need to turn away from because they are tarnishing the *life* Jesus has given you?

A moment to pray.

Heavenly Father, You have given me a tremendous gift of life in Jesus. Help me to always fix my eyes on Him, that I would be saved. Help me to pay attention and take care of the life you have given to me through Him. In Jesus' name. Amen.