

# THE BOOK OF JOHN

## How To Make A Spiritual Success Of Your Life

John 3:1-15

John 3:1, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:"

### I. Check Your Definition Of Success

There was a man named Nicodemus:

- He was a Pharisee
- A member of the Sanhedrin
- The teacher of Israel

### II. Seek Out Christ

Why did Nicodemus come at night? Two possibilities:

- So that he wouldn't be noticed.
- So that he could find time alone with Jesus.

Three things to note about HOW Jesus said what He said.

1. Jesus gets right to the point.
2. Jesus changes pronouns: from "we" to "you."
3. Jesus knew Nicodemus' question before he even asked it!

### III. Be Born Again.

We cannot be spiritually successful without a new birth.

Born again! The Greek word means both to be born again and to be born from above. It's important to understand that this word means much more than a fresh start. It points to an entirely new birth.

To live a spiritually successful life we must understand the difference between religion and regeneration:

#### **Religion**

I can achieve God's favor  
The good in my life can outweigh the sin  
I must give up a part of my life  
Trying Hard

#### **Regeneration**

God's love is an undeserved gift  
Jesus' death on the cross forgives my sin  
I commit to Him all of my life  
Trusting Him

### IV. Don't Let The Physical Blind You To The Spiritual

Question: What does Jesus mean by "Water and Spirit?"

Two principles of Bible study help us to see the answer:

- The principle of understanding unclear verses in the light of clear verses
- The principle of understanding words in the light of their immediate context.

Jesus has an amazing way of taking what we have made incredibly complicated and making it extremely simple.

A - We were born in a garden, spiritually.

B - We died in that garden, spiritually.

C - There is no physical thing we can do to resurrect that spiritual life in us.

D - We need a new birth, a spiritual birth.

In verse 7 don't miss the word...must!

A picture to help Nicodemus to understand: the wind

- It's real, but you can't see it.
- It's powerful, but you can't control it.

You can't "see" the Holy Spirit in a person's life, but can see the effects of what He is doing.

## **V. Admit What You Don't Know.**

You don't receive

You don't believe

## **VI. Make Trust Your Daily Measure Of Success.**

Jesus gives Nicodemus a picture to challenge him to believe: a picture that he could relate to.

How can we be born again?

- Jesus must be lifted up!
- We must believe!

WARNING! Don't make idols of your spiritual victories.