

GOSPEL of Grace FELLOWSHIP

John 3:6-16

Eternal Life Through Christ Alone

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The Spirit's Work Is Seen Through New Life in Christ

John 3:6-8 (ESV)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

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Jesus Answers the Challenge

John 3:9-10 (LEB)

Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and you do not understand these things?"

- This is not simple misunderstanding but incredulity which challenges Jesus' claims
- Nicodemus claimed to know that Jesus came from God as a teacher

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Who Is the Teacher?

John 3:1-2 (LEB)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to him at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one is able to perform these signs that you are performing unless God were with him."

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Jesus' Valid Testimony Is Rejected

John 3:11 (LEB)

Truly, truly I say to you, we speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony!

- "Truly, truly" is *ame_n, ame_n* in the Greek
- "Not accept" echoes John 1:11 and previews John 5:43
- Jesus speaks the truth with full authority as the pre-existent Creator (1:1-18)

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Jesus Uniquely Speaks of Heaven

John 3:12-13 (LEB)

If I tell you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? And no one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man.

- Only Jesus is the preexistent, eternal *Logos* (John 1:1-3) as well as the Son of Man
- Even Moses could not make this claim

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Jesus Will Be 'Lifted Up'

John 3:14-15 (LEB)

And just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, thus **it is necessary that the Son of Man be lifted up**, so that **everyone who believes in him will have eternal life**.

- An allusion to Numbers 21:4-9
- A bronze serpent on a pole was God's remedy for the curse due to murmuring
- Lifted up: Jn 8:28; 12:32; 12:34 (crucified)

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John's Explanation of the Prologue

John 3:16 (LEB)

For **in this way God loved the world, so that he gave his one and only Son, in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life**.

- Jesus affirmed He would bear the curse
- He bore the curse of sin to bring salvation to those who believe
- Themes echoed: world, only begotten, life
- The options: believe in Him or perish

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Implications and Applications

- Jesus's claims are either outlandish impossibilities or utterly profound truth
- Jesus fulfilled the role of the snake Moses lifted up in a way no one could have envisioned

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The Creator of the World Came To His Own

John 1:10-12 (LEB)

He was in the world, and **the world came into being through him**, and the world did not recognize him. He came to his own things, **and his own people did not receive him**. But as many as **received him—to those who believe in his name—he gave to them authority to become children of God**,

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Jesus' Crucifixion Reveals Truth

John 8:28 (LEB)

Then Jesus said, "**When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will recognize that I am he**, and I do nothing from myself, but just as the Father taught me, I say these things."

John 12:32 (LEB)

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

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Jesus' Future Glory

John 17:1b-3 (LEB)

...lifting up his eyes to heaven he said, "Father, the hour has come! **Glorify your Son, in order that your Son may glorify you**— just as you have given him authority over all flesh, in order that he would give eternal life to them—everyone whom you have given him. Now **this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent**.

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