

## Born of the Spirit

Scripture: John 3:1-13

Date: March 13, 2021

Message: *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.*

*John 3:8*

The wind can be a powerful force – from a steady breeze holding a kite aloft, to a stout draft filling the sails of a ship, to a swirling tornado tossing everything in its path, or a hurricane-force gale pushing great waves onto the shore. We cannot really see the wind, but we know that it exists because we can hear and see its effects.

In the same way the Holy Spirit is a powerful, unseen force evident in the effects the Spirit produces in the lives of those who are “born again.”

When Nicodemus came to Jesus, he acknowledged that no one could do the things Jesus did unless God was with them, but there was still an underlying curiosity, a desire to know what it was about this man that made him different. Jesus taught with authority, he performed many signs and miracles, yet he did so with humility, patience, kindness, and love. His actions were in stark contrast to those of Pharisees and other teachers and leaders of the day.

In Galatians 5: 22-23, the Apostle Paul writes that “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”

As children of God, the presence of these characteristics in our lives are evidence that we have been “born again,” filled with the spirit of God and set apart from the world. We may speak with eloquence and do seemingly great things, but our most impactful testimony comes not through grand speeches and sermons or heroic deeds, but through the small day-to-day things we say and do influenced by the Holy Spirit – a kind word spoken, restraint of anger or judgement, a compassionate prayer for someone in need, humble service, or loving acceptance of others.

This is what drew Nicodemus to Jesus that night. Perhaps others may, too, be drawn to Jesus when they can hear and see the effects of the Holy Spirit in our lives and come near to discover what makes us different.

Prayer: *Gracious God, we are so thankful for the gift of your Holy Spirit and for the plan of salvation that allows us to become your children. May our hearts be filled with your spirit, so that we can bear good fruit in our lives and reflect your presence in the world around us. Amen.*