

“The Last Word: Born Again . . . Again”

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○ **John 3:1-21**

○ **Desire of Ages:** “In the interview with Nicodemus, Jesus unfolded the plan of salvation, and His mission to the world. In none of His subsequent discourses did He explain so fully, _____, the work necessary to be done in the hearts of all who would inherit the kingdom of heaven.” (176)

- Step #1—“You must be born _____/born _____.”
 - I.e., your life must experience a spiritual _____.
- Step #2—You must be born of _____.
 - “No water baptism, no _____.”
- Step #3—You must be born of the _____.
 - For you can no more rebirth yourself _____, than you were able to birth yourself _____.
 - *Desire of Ages:* “The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind. A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is _____ working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received [1] through meditating upon _____, [2] through reading the _____, or [3] through hearing the word from the living _____. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,—a patient, protracted process.” (172)
- Step #4—You must be born at His _____.
 - “Lifted up” is Jesus’ code language in the Fourth Gospel for his own atoning _____ (3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 33).
 - Robert Smith: “Jesus will be lifted up, as the bronze serpent was, for the healing of God’s people. His descent (by incarnation) and his ascent (by means of the cross) are love’s triumphant course through the cosmos, gathering to God’s bosom all who believe, blessing them with unconquerable life. Nicodemus is neither the first nor the last to shake his head at the message.” (*Wounded Lord* 39)
 - Born of water and born of Spirit have neither meaning nor purpose without the human choice to _____ in the Son of Man and Son of God who died upon Calvary.
 - Craig Keener: “This passage clarifies the prerequisite for birth from above: not mere faith in Christ in an abstract sense, nor faith *despite* the crucifixion, but faith in the _____ Christ” (*The Gospel of John* 1:563).
 - The prayer: “My God—my sins crushed out the life of my Savior—and I bow in penitence to receive his healing salvation.”
- Step #5 You must be born in His _____.
 - *Steps to Christ:* “The heart of God yearns over His earthly children with a love stronger than death. In giving up His Son, He has poured out to us _____ in one gift.” (21) “Such love is without a parallel. Children of the heavenly King! Precious promise! Theme for the most profound meditation! The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him!” (15) “But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father’s heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.’ John 3:16. The Father loves us, not because of the great [atonement sacrifice], but He provided the [atonement sacrifice] because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His _____ love upon a fallen world.” (13)

.....
I would like to follow Jesus and be baptized/rebaptized (select one).

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

step by step, again, from above, rebirth, water, born again, Spirit, spiritually, physically, constantly, Him, Scriptures, preacher, cross, trust, crucifixion, crucified, love, all heaven, infinite