

 Prayers Anchored in the
Gospel of John
John 3:1-8

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

* Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

* The Collect

Collecting your thoughts so you can focus
on God.

John 3:1-8 (NIV)

- * ¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”
- * ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”
- * ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”
- * ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ 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.”

*This is a time when you will want to reflect (pray) on some part of the passage so that you and God are communicating. It can be a time for questions to God or to put into words some of the stirrings in your heart.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

“Do I seek for signs of the Kingdom, or do I perceive God’s rule? The new birth gives a new power of vision whereby I begin to discern God’s rule. His rule was there all the time, but true to His nature; now that I have received His nature I can see His rule.”

Oswald Chambers, *The Signs of New Birth*

<http://utmost.org/classic/signs-of-the-new-birth-classic>

***Meditation**

“Once the likeness painted on a panel has been effaced by stains from outside itself, the one whose likeness it is needs to come once more to enable the portrait to be renewed on the same wood. And, for the sake of his picture, even the mere wood on which it is painted is not thrown away, but the outline is renewed upon it.

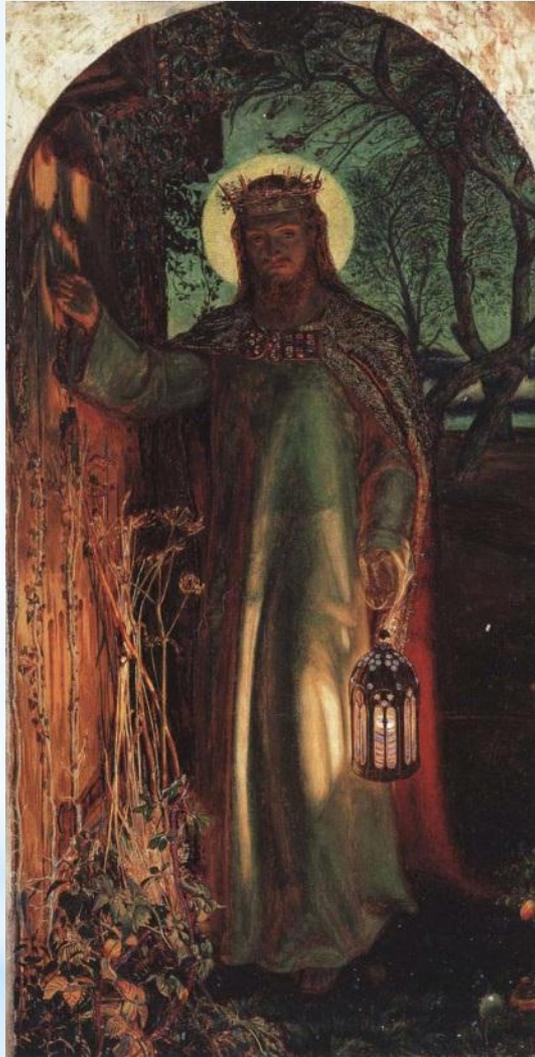
In the same way, the most holy Son of the Father, being the image of the Father, **came to our world to renew humankind** once made in his likeness. He came to find such lost individuals by the remission of their sins. ...This is why he also said to the Jews, ‘Except one be born again,’ not meaning, as they thought, birth from a woman, but speaking of the soul born and created anew in the likeness of God’s image.”

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, *but born of God.*” (John 1:12-13)

*“Father, like newborns we are utterly dependent upon you for everything. As Peter tells Jesus, so we say to you, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68). Even though we breathe, we need your Spirit. Even though we have bread, we need your Bread from heaven. Transform me from above. Renew your image and glory within me. Open my eyes that I may see your kingdom’s rule.”

Andrew Kirk

***Response**



* Thank all members of the Trinity that you have been given the right to become a child of God.

* Prayer



* Pray for someone you know who is either rejoicing or mourning, celebrating or struggling. Take them before the throne of grace in prayer. Join with them in praise or petition (Rom. 12:15).

* Prayer

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and has made us to be a kingdom
and priests to serve his God and Father,
to him be glory and power for ever and ever!

Amen.

Copyright © 2014 Better Gatherings. Used with permission.

 **Blessing**