

* Prayers Anchored in the
Gospel of John

John 2:23–3:15

Friday, February 21, 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 2:23–3:15 (NIV)

- * ²³ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.
- * ^{3:1} 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.”
- * ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
- * ¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

* This is a time when you will want to think about what God has said to you this week. He has spoken personally and He desires you to pay attention and put some feet to the direction he has given to you.

What words have stuck in your mind this week? Jesus' invitation to be born of above? The Son of Man lifted high?

* **Meditation**

*The Spirit of God

- * Comforts
- * Rebukes
- * Teaches
- * Guides

* Sometimes the Voice of Jesus resonates deeply in one of these areas and sometimes we hear that sweet voice in two, three or even all four of these ways. Write down what Jesus has discussed with you this week.

*Meditation

- * Can you take these thoughts and articulate your response back to God? Is your response one of surrender to His direction or are you finding resistance welling up inside?
- * My response is “Father, I thank you for the work that you do in my life that completely makes me new. I surrender to the hidden and quiet work of your Holy Spirit. I surrender to the death you call me to in Christ and stand in your hope for the new life you bring.”

* **Response**

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

Refrain

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy (Refrain 2x)

Bridge

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you

Paul Baloche, 2000

To listen to this song, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZX7mPbF6J0>





- * Pray for strength to live out what you have been directed to do this week by Jesus.
- * Pray that you will keep working at this, even though it may take practice to build this direction into your life.

* Prayer

Lord, through my vision, help me to see more clearly the things that You see through Your eyes; through my thoughts, help me to understand the things that You know in Your wisdom; through my tongue, help me to speak the words that are upon Your lips. By Your grace, I want to know the power of Your cross, the fellowship of Your suffering, the triumphs of Your victory, and the glory of a life that is seated with You at the Father's right hand.

Roy Lessin,

<http://www.meetmeinthemeadow.com/category/pray-this>

 **Blessing**