# How To Give Away Your Faith

## HANDOUT #6

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## Our ways are not God's ways.

When a person follows his own inclinations for obtaining salvation, it leads only to ruin. The Bible is clear that the good things we do cannot bridge the separation between God and man. The Bible warns in Proverbs 14:12,**"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."**

## Good deeds are not the solution.

Many people think that doing good deeds are the solution for the sins they have committed. But good works cannot remove the stain of sin, which is why God says, **"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).** In addition, good deeds cannot save because they cannot satisfy the just penalty for sin, which is death.

The third principle explains God's initiative in Christ . . .



# 3 God's Love Moved Him To Rescue Us From Our Sin

## God's Love

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



**D. Objective for Point #3 PART II—Your goal in sharing the third principle as found on pages 12-14 — is to communicate God's great love for all of us by sending Jesus Christ so that we can have a _____ relationship with God.**

1. **We have studied that Point #3 — we are focusing on God's initiating love that moved Him to rescue ___ from our sin, beginning with 1 John 4:10:**

**10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

2. **The biblical picture in this verse is not primarily of sinful man seeking after God, but of holy God seeking _____ sinful man.**

3. **Even when man responds to God, his response is possible only because God has _____ acted toward him in grace.**

4. **In contrast to Calvinism, we have defended from Scripture that God takes this initiative toward all people because He truly loves __ and Jesus Christ actually died for all—those dead, those living, and those yet to be born.**

5. **Beginning in Genesis 3 — we find the foundational example — as seen in the sin of Adam — for they did not go looking for God — in fact they hid from Him and yet the Bible reveals how God _____ looking for them.**

6. **The greatest expression of God reaching out to humanity, demonstrating God's love & making forgiveness available to all, is the _____ of Christ.**

7. **Perhaps no single verse in the New Testament summarizes this incredible expression of God's _____ more beautifully than John 3:16.**

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8. **It is widely regarded as the _____ memorized & frequently preached verse in all the Bible — and so every Christian ought to understand it thoroughly, so that that they can clearly & simply explain the Gospel.**

9. **Everything necessary for a person to become a Christian is contained in "the red booklet" & in most cases this is _____ that you will need.**

10. **However, there will be times when people have additional questions, and one of the best ways to address them ___ by sharing additional Scripture, since "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ."**

11. **You can do this by having additional passages that explain salvation by grace alone through faith alone, or by expanding on _____ verses already included in the booklet — such as John 3:16.**

12. **You might begin by explaining briefly John 3:1-8 and the necessity of the ____ birth to be able to 'see' & to 'enter into the kingdom of God' (3:3,5).**

**1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (3:1–8).**

13. **I suppose that if there is _____ passage we ought to know so well that they could explain it clearly to someone else, it would certainly be John 3:1–16.**

14. **Jesus makes it very clear to this religious leader that the new birth ___ essential for salvation when He tells Nicodemus, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).**

15. **Jesus is clear that being physically born does not qualify anyone to enter God's kingdom, no matter how religious they may be or what kind of background they come from—everyone must be _____ spiritually.**

**3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

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16. **In Jesus' day, people trusted in being Abraham's descendants (Jn. 8:39), just as many people today assume they are right with God because ____ were raised Catholic, Baptist, or in some other religious tradition.**

17. **Nicodemus misunderstands Jesus ____ thinking of a second physical birth when He asks Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" (3:4).**

18. **Jesus responds to ___ question by clearly distinguishing the natural birth, associated with water from the spiritual birth brought about by the Spirit.**

**5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of (John 3:5).**

19. **By the way, though it is not necessary to raise this point unless the person you are sharing this passage with brings it up, there are some who have falsely taught that being "born of water" refers _____ water baptism.**

20. **Unfortunately, this statement has been greatly abused by those ____ teach that baptism saves a person or contributes to one's salvation.**

21. **_____ that were the case, John 3:16 would need to be amended to include baptism (i.e. *whoever believes & is baptized*) as a condition for eternal life.**

22. **Baptism is a good work, and Ephesians 2:8–9 teaches that we are saved __ grace through faith, not by good works (cf. Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:21).**

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

23. **Furthermore, as we ____ see in verses 14-15 — making baptism necessary for salvation would contradict the very illustration Jesus gives Nicodemus.**

24. **The Bible makes clear that baptism is not part of "the gospel" message by which we are saved ____ Paul states it plainly: "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel" (1 Corinthians 1:17).**

25. **This verse indicates that baptism and the gospel are not the same thing, a distinction that is important __ light of what Paul writes in Romans 1:16:**

**16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,**

26. **In fact, when he later defines "the gospel" in 1 Corinthians 15, he does ____ include baptism — among its essential elements:**

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**1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ( 1 Corinthians 15:1–4).**

27. **If we allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, we recognize that while baptism is certainly important as a symbol of salvation & an ___ of obedience to Christ (Mt. 28:18-20), it is not a condition of salvation.**

28. **So ____ know that being "born of water" cannot refer to water baptism.**

29. **While there has been all kinds of ingenious explanations offered for ____ phrase "born of water and the Spirit" the immediate context helps us to know how Nicodemus would have understood what Jesus was saying.**

**5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'**

30. **The flow of the conversation & the context indicates that Jesus used the term "water" in reference to our first, physical birth — and the term "Spirit" — in reference to _____ second — spiritual birth.**

31. **When your mother's water broke, you were born physically and entered this world — that was your _____ birth — that was your physical birth.**

32. **But no matter what religious heritage comes with it, physical birth _____ cannot give you favor with God—a significant truth for this man to hear.**

33. **It is not enough to ____ Jewish and a member of God's covenant people.**

34. **Neither is it enough to be religious, morally upright, or a good citizen, because regardless ____ your background, "you must be born again."**

35. **The context is the distinction between natural birth and spiritual birth, _____ a requirement to undergo water baptism to receive eternal life.**

36. **Nowhere in this conversation does Jesus mention baptism because being born of the Spirit is a supernatural _____ of God.**

37. **Just as physical birth brings physical life, even so the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual life to someone who is spiritually _____ (John 3:5–6).**

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38. **Just as our physical birth gives us a human nature, only the Spirit _____ spiritual life where we "become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pt. 1:4).**

39. **The new birth is *the sovereign work* of the Holy Spirit for just as we cannot control or fully explain the movement of "the wind" — neither can _____ control or fully explain how the Spirit brings about spiritual life (3:8).**

40. **Before we leave this paragraph—let me mention that—a small minority __ expositors understand the word "water" here to refer to the Word of God.**

41. **While James 1:18 and 1 Peter 1:23 speak of being born again through the Word, that is not what Jesus in this context was referring to nor would Nicodemus have understood "water" to mean God's _____.**

42. **We must be careful not to _____ later revelation back into a passage when its immediate context points us in another direction for the truths revealed by James and Peter and others — had not yet been revealed.**

43. **Jesus is building on Nicodemus' own reference to physical birth (3:4), not pointing to revelation yet to be given — the contrast is between our _____, physical birth and the second, spiritual birth brought about by the Spirit.**

44. **As you share the message of the new birth with those who are lost, you want them to understand that being "born again" is not some _____ of spiritual experience reserved just for certain denominations.**

45. **The truth is—we all need to be "born again" which is _____ Jesus emphatically tells Nicodemus, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:7 cf. John 3:3; 3:5).**

46. **Jesus makes 3 emphatic statements to Nicodemus concerning the necessity of the new birth starting in verse three, where He tells _____ that without being "born again" — an individual "cannot see the kingdom of God."**

47. **Then, in verse five, Jesus makes it _____ that without this new birth an individual including Nicodemus "cannot enter into the kingdom of God."**

48. **Jesus is saying that without the new birth, a person cannot even "see" himself as a participant in God's kingdom, much less "enter" into __.**

49. **The new birth is ___ simply an improvement in your religious life; it is the impartation of spiritual life that makes entrance into the kingdom possible.**

50. **So finally, in verse 7, Jesus removes any possibility of misunderstanding underscoring the new birth is not optional _____ an absolute necessity.**

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51. **Sometimes questions arise about the nature of one's conversion experience, as though everyone comes to Christ in exactly the same way or must have some _____ of dramatic — "Damascus Road" — experience.**

52. **Certainly, the Apostle Paul's conversion was very dramatic, but we must be careful — not to stereotype — how the new birth _____ place.**

53. **People come to Christ from different backgrounds and circumstances, but everyone — must _____ through faith — in Jesus Christ.**

54. **I am not even saying that *everyone can even remember or pinpoint* precisely when it happens though it happens __ a precise moment (Colossians 1:13):**

**"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."**

55. **The word Greek verb translated "transferred" conveys a changed position, and here it describes — a decisive change that takes place ____ conversion.**

56. ***Through faith in Jesus* we are removed from Satan's "domain of darkness" and we _____ brought into — "the kingdom" — of God's "beloved Son."**

57. **This verse, among dozens of others, illustrates that while our spiritual growth after salvation is progressive (sanctification)—our conversion is an instantaneous change ____ our spiritual position before God.**

58. **Once you have established the necessity of the new birth, it is helpful to point out that Nicodemus _____, "How can these things be?"**

59. **From here, I would move to Jesus' concluding explanation in verses 14–16, of _____ a person receives this new birth & as a result, eternal life.**

60. **However, for the sake of clarity, let me briefly walk us through verses 8–13 so that we understand *how they fit into Jesus' explanation* of the ____ birth.**

**8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."**

61. **It is no accident that the Greek word for "wind" is the same word used for "Spirit" because the Lord Jesus is making a fitting comparison between the way "the wind" works _____ the way "the Spirit" of God works.**

62. **In Greek, the word *pneuma* can _____ either "wind" or "spirit" and so the context determines what is view & contextually there is a clear distinction.**

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