How To Give Away Your Faith

HANDOUT #6

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026

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).**

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026

38. **Just as ___ physical birth gives us a human nature, only the Spirit can give us 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.**

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026

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 (Col. 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 in view & contextually there is a clear distinction*.**

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026

63. **Jesus uses this same word to show the similarities between "the Spirit" and "the wind" & when you think about it, there are __ important similarities.**

64. **____, both operate independently for just as we cannot control "the wind," even so we cannot control the work of "the Spirit" for He is sovereign.**

65. **Our new birth does ___ originate from below, through human effort, but it comes from above, through God—this is the mystery of being 'born again.'**

66. **The Holy Spirit is sovereign in accomplishing the new birth in that _____ is not subject to human control, manipulation, or ability.**

67. **When you came to faith in Jesus you did not produce spiritual life through human effort, religious rites, intellectual understanding, or _____ reform.**

68. **Just as we had no part in producing our physical birth, even so we cannot manufacture our spiritual birth, for our birth is a sovereign work of ____.**

69. **However, the fact that the Holy Spirit sovereignly regenerates people does not mean that He overrides their _____ will & their willingness to respond.**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12–13).

70. **Notice carefully the ___ truths that are presented together in John 1:12-13.**

71. **Verse 12 identifies those who "receive" Christ by faith as those who "become children of God" & yet verse 13 explains that their birth into God's family _____ ultimately accomplished by God alone.**

72. **Please notice in verse 13 the _____negatives that John is inspired to use:**

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).

73. **The verse is introduced with the relative pronoun "who" goes back to the persons in verse 12 who are ____ to have exercised belief "in His name."**

74. **And when you "received" Jesus it did "not" happen because of "blood," that is your physical ancestry or descent as many of the _____ believed.**

75. **Jesus encountered this problem __ recorded in John 8:33 when the Jewish leadership said, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone" *further claiming* "Abraham is our father" (John 8:39).**

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026

76. **Of course, Jesus made it clear in saying "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham" (John 8:39) because _____ faith changes a person.**

77. **Their actions showed they were not following Abraham's example of _____.**

78. **They were ____ like Abraham for Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad" (John 8:58).**

79. **Jesus is explaining that Abraham _____ real faith, anticipating the coming of Messiah, and by faith, he looked forward to His day and rejoiced in it.**

80. **John 8:53-59 are powerful verses demonstrating _____ Abraham's faith in God's promised Messiah and Jesus' eternal preexistence.**

81. **Many of the Jews in Jesus' day appealed to their physical ancestry from Abraham, but Jesus exposed the fact that physical descent does not automatically establish a spiritual relationship _____ God.**

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham (Matthew 3:7–9).

82. **Even today, some people think that the faith or works of their ancestors somehow guarantees their salvation often appealing to relatives in ____ ministry or some sacramental act that their parents performed on them.**

83. **God has children (John 1:12), but God has no grandchildren & so each ___ of us become a part of "the children of God" by personally trusting Jesus.**

84. **God's Word is clear that becoming a believer is "not of blood" because the new birth is not the same as physical birth; no one becomes a child of God simply because he was born into a Christian family or ____ godly parents.**

**13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).**

85. **Then John adds, "nor of the will of the flesh," because no amount of human effort, religious activity, or moral reform _____ produce spiritual life.**

86. **The new birth is not something we inherit through our ancestry or achieve through our activity, but what God alone accomplishes by the Spirit _____.**

Copyright, Dr. Carl J. Broggi, Search The Scriptures, 2026