

Unconventional | John 3:1-8

John 3 introduces us to Nicodemus—a respected religious leader who comes to Jesus under the cover of night. His questions reveal both curiosity and misunderstanding. This message explores God’s unconventional ways, His sovereign placement of our lives, and the call to yield control and embrace the divine disruptions of the Spirit.

Read John 3:1-8

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 (pneuma) 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 (pneuma).”

Additional Verses

- 1 Corinthians 1:27 | But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.
- Acts 17:26-27 | From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.
- Proverbs 16:9 | In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.
- Ephesians 2:10 | For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- 1 Corinthians 3:7 | So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.
- Proverbs 3:5-6 | Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
- John 15:19 | If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.
- John 16:33 | I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 | Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Questions for Reflection

1. What speaks to you the most? What words stand out to you? Is there a key verse?
2. What stands out to you about Nicodemus approaching Jesus at night? In what ways are people secret disciples of Christ today?
3. Jesus compares the Spirit's work to the wind—unpredictable and uncontrollable. How have you experienced God working in unconventional ways?
4. How do scriptures like Acts 17:26 and Proverbs 16:9 challenge our desire for control and predictability? Why is it best to yield control of our lives to Jesus? What does this look like practically?
5. What does it mean to prepare for “divine disruptions?” How might God be inviting you outside your comfort zone right now?
6. Jesus calls us to be born again from above and receive a new heart and new Spirit. How does this transformation reshape your daily life and decisions?
7. Identify one major takeaway from this lesson. What insight did you gain? Summarize it in one or two sentences.

Summary: God is an unconventional God who works beyond our expectations and outside our attempts at control. Scripture affirms that God places us where we are with intention and invites us to trust Him even when the path is uncertain. Following Jesus means stepping outside our comfort zone, embracing life's divine disruptions, and yielding complete control so the Holy Spirit can use us according to the Father's will. We are to our lives as those carried by the wind of the Spirit.

- God is an "unconventional" God.
- Ultimately, He is the One in control, not us.
- He uses whom He wishes, how He wishes, where He wishes.
- Be ready for divine disruptions

“Lord, I come to You with an open heart. I surrender my need for control and ask You to lead me by Your Spirit. Where You go, I want to follow. When You speak, I want to listen. Give me courage to step outside my comfort zone and faith to trust Your unconventional ways. Shape my heart, renew my spirit, and make me fully Yours. Amen.”

Bible Refs: [John 3:1-21](#); [John 19:38-40](#); [1 Corinthians 1:25-31](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#); [Proverbs 16:9](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#); [1 Corinthians 3:7-9](#); [John 15:19](#); [John 16:33](#)

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