1. Born of Spirit (John 3:1-21)

Nicodemus came to Jesus Christ (John 3:1-21, v.3-7,8). He was a Jewish man, teacher of Old Testament, a ruler. He was a man of power and wisdom, and believed in God. Today's equivalent, Nicodemus was a man of power and wisdom, a successful and respected community leader, a senate and a judge, a learned scholar and a theologian, and a seminary professor and a respected preacher.

He came to Christ and greeted Him, "Rabbi" or "Great Teacher!" To his greeting, Jesus commanded, knowing the heart of Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (v.3). You must be born of Spirit if you want to be saved. If you want to see the Kingdom of God, if you want to go to Heaven, if you want to be forgiven of your sins, if you want God to forgive your sins, if you want to have eternal life, if you do not want to go to hell, if you do not want to be doomed, you must be born again. If this is your question, Jesus gives you now the straight answer! You must be born again.

2. Wind Analogy (John 3:8)

Born again? How can an old man go back to his mother's womb? (v.4) As Nicodemus asked, Jesus answered: Be born of the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, and the Spirit of God gives birth to spirit. (v.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. How can this be? Nicodemus asked. (v.8) As wind blows, you hear its sound, you feel its flow. But can you trace every piece of wind? Can you trace each drop of wind (or water) out of the flow of wind (or water)? Can you distinguish one wind from another as they all blow upon you? So is the man, so is the one, born of Spirit. Can you feel a flow of air in this room? Can you even hear the sound of it? Look at my hands. As I wave both of my hands, I am making some winds. If I use my paper, I can even make a sound of a wind. You can feel the wind, at least two winds from my both hands. But can you tell me where is wind moving from one place to another? Can you pinpoint each piece of wind from one place to another? Can you see the piece of wind moving away from this room to somewhere else? So is the one, born of Spirit. So are the man and woman, born of God.

A mystery! It is a mystery for man; it is a mystery for this world. It is a supernatural phenomenon, transcendental, inexpressible, miraculous, mysterious event by Holy Spirit of God, "to be born of Spirit, to be born of God". It is something beyond the wisdom and power of man. It is the wisdom and power of God in its manifestation. It is Being Born of Spirit of God, Being Born of God, Being Children of God. It is not by man's flesh, not by man's will, wisdom, nor power. It is by Mighty Power of God, by His sovereign power. It is a mystery, something beyond our wisdom and power, beyond our understanding and even imagination. But as promised by Jesus Christ, whoever believes in Him shall be born of Spirit. Not by work but by the grace of God through faith! As you and I believe the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, according to the scripture! By the miraculous work of Holy Spirit, it is to be born of Spirit. Each one of us is the new creation by the awesome power of God, the power even to raise Christ from the dead.
Have you seen recently the icon of the bronze snake that Moses lifted up in the desert (John 3:14, Numbers 21:4-9)? Check out the hospital or Ambulance. The modern medical science is founded in the faith that the Bible teaches us: God is our ultimate healer and salvation! Though His son, Jesus Christ, we are saved.

3. Citizenship

I was naturalized in 1983. There are several steps that I have to follow to become a citizen of the United States of America. No matter what, I was not a citizen of the United States of America until the final step of the declaration by a Federal judge. But when the judge declared me and the others to be the citizens of the United States of America, at that very moment, I am US citizen. Have I changed anything because of the declaration? Before and after, my height, weight, and my skin color! Nothing has been changed, they are still same. For example, these are my appetite, my hobby, and my Korean accent. I still like kimchi (awesome smelly Korean food, a pickled cabbage, or a rotten vegetable). I still have my Korean accent. And my English is still so and so, before and after. Nothing changed physically, even mentally. But there is something changed. Something very important, something we call the legal status.

I am a new being concerning my legal status. I am not anymore Korean citizen but US citizen. When I am kidnapped by North Korea or Iraqi death squad, it is not the concern and obligation of Korean government but of US government. So is born of God. You and I are totally new creation in Christ. New born spirit babies of God our Father.

Even though nothing may be changed in our physical or biological or even mental status, except the fact and faith that now we believe in Christ, we are totally new creations from God's perspective. So is to Satan and evil spirit. There is no way to detect who is Christian.
scientifically. If so, Christians were exterminated long ago, by Roman emperors, by conquering Moslems, by other religious rulers, and by the communist regimes. There is no measurable mark that this world can detect. There is no gain or loss in weight. Brain waves are same as usual. Yet there is a visible sign of the new born Christian. There is a sign of God for each one of us; it is the Holy Spirit dwelling within each one of us. As we believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are born of Spirit. By the Spirit of God, we become the new creation in Christ. Even we may not distinguish one another, God knows and he declares my beloved son, my beloved daughter, my beloved children. Jesus knows and declares my beloved brothers and sister. Satan knows and evil spirits know who belongs to whom.

So we preach the message of the cross, the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Scripture. Our message is the power and wisdom of God. It is given to Paul; it is given to Peter; it is given to John, and it is given to you and me. It is available to you and me. What a good news! What a gospel! What a grace of God!


And we are not alone in our preaching and witnesses.

And do not be discouraged and frustrated during our witness and testimony. Many times we hear that: How can you prove it? How can I believe such a story? What is the sign? Isn't this foolish?

Yet Jesus tells us an assurance. When we preach, when we witness, when we proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, we are not alone.

(John 16:8-11)

As Jesus promised, he sent Holy Spirit. And Holy Spirit dwells in us Christians.
Moreover, Jesus said,

...he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.

In regard to sin, it is because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, it is because I am going to the Father, where you cannot see me no longer; in regard to judgment, it is because the prince of the world now stands condemned.

4.1. On The Sin

It is the sin; "Not to believe in Jesus Christ", that is the sin. When we will against God, we sin. When God tells us to believe His Son, we must obey God. If we do not, it is sin. That is, the Holy Spirit convicts. That is sin!

Many ask us why do they have to believe in Jesus, why not someone else or some other religion? Holy Spirit who is with us will convict our hearts saying, "because I say so!". As we gently witness the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit shall shout, "Because God says so!" "Not believing Christ" is the sin! It is not my opinion but of God. And the Spirit of God solemnly testifies Himself to you "because I say so!" It is the sin, not to believe in Jesus Christ, Christ according to the scripture. So Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when you witness Christ, be confident and determined. God is personally convicting the hearts of those to whom you and I are witnessing. And Holy Spirit is strengthening our hearts and conviction.

4.2. On The Righteousness

It is the righteousness of God that Jesus went to Heaven. And Jesus shall come again to judge the world. It is what God says "right that Jesus is not here anymore" for us to see, hear, and touch. The Holy Spirit convicts you and me.
Many ask us if he can see Jesus, then he will believe. You may hear: "Where is God? Where is Jesus Christ? Show me, then I will believe." Holy Spirit convicts their hearts as we give our testimony of the scripture. That is right! "That is right", says Holy Spirit. God testifies that it is the righteousness of God that Christ is not here anymore. When God declares right, who shall dare to say "No"? When God convicts my heart, who can deny what God says "righteous!" Do you dare, do you deny, do you doubt God's own testimony! Do you dare to say "wrong" against what God declares "righteous"?

It is the sin, not to believe in Jesus Christ who is in Heaven now. Christ is now sitting at the right hand of God. Christ shall come again to judge the world. Christ shall come again to resurrect Christians from the dead. Christ shall come again according to the scripture. So Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when you witness the righteousness of God that Christ is not here anymore, be confident and determined. God is personally convicting the hearts of those to whom you and I are witnessing. And Holy Spirit is strengthening our hearts and conviction.

4.3. On The Judgement

It is the judgment of God that the prince of the world, Satan, has been judged. In the court, there is a trial, then verdict, then sentence. Holy Spirit convicts that Satan, the head of all evil power, was already judged. The verdict is guilty. The sentence is death. And Satan is now waiting helplessly for the execution of the sentence. The lake of fire! Satan is doomed to be perished. How about all the men following Satan!

[Listen to John 3:18]

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
[(How about the next verse? v.19)]

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

All men were sinned and so judged already according to the scripture, "the wage of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The prince of this world has been judged. Satan has been judged. The head and the greatest of this evil world has been judged. The judgment is final for all rebellious sinful beings. Not only mankind but also all the spiritual world have been judged, judged with the verdict of guilt. Can you see the finality and the universality of the judgment upon all the cosmos! There is nothing left, nothing to hinder the wrath of God upon this world! Everyone has been judged by God for the coming wrath of God.

Many say that he will believe later. After the semester is over, after marriage, after retirement, after business is settled, after clearing up some bad habits, ... and you will hear one excuse after another. They may argue, as long as I will make a decision until I die.

Do you think that they may have an hour or a minute or even a second when the death comes upon them? When God declares "My grace and patient is enough, I shall take his life!", can anyone stand before the wrath of God? Surely you will see the wrath of God upon all the sinners. The judgment of God is imminent. It could be at any moment. When you die, you die.

Do they have even a spilt second to make a decision when the death comes upon him? You may argue, "as long as I confess my sin, and believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord!" Do you think such nonsense will work? When you are dying, you are dying. There is not a minute nor even a second for you to think about your sin, to repent, and to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, when you are dying. Have you ever had a heart attack? or Earthquake? or
Stroke? or any other fatal disaster? Or have you seen someone having a heart-attack? Do you suppose that you may ever have a second to think about Jesus when you have a massive heart-attack? You shall be so desperate to reach a phone, to dial an emergency number, or to call a help. So don't wait. This is the hour of decision for you. Now. When you hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, when the gospel of Jesus Christ is in your heart, and in your tongue, take it, take it with saving faith, receive Christ, receive His name, Christ our Lord and Savior, Christ according to the scripture. Receive Him now. This is your time to make decision.

It is the sin, not to believe in Jesus Christ who is in Heaven now. It is the righteousness of God that Christ is in Heaven now. Christ shall come again to judge the living and the dead. He shall come again according to the scripture. It is the judgment of God that even the prince of this world, Satan, has been judged.

So Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when you witness the judgment of God that even Satan has been judged, be confident and determined. God is personally convicting the hearts of those to whom you and I are witnessing. And Holy Spirit is strengthening our hearts and conviction. When you hear the voice of the Lord today, do not harden your heart! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Amen and Amen!
Note 1 on John 3:14 and Numbers 21:4-9

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up".

(1) Have you seen the sign of the bronze snake on the pole that Moses lifted up? I am telling you that sometimes you see it everyday. Here are some hints: (a) medical services, (b) hospital, and (c) ambulance. Unfortunately there is no clear history for its origin being used for medical service or medical help, as being used first time for US Army in the middle of 19th century. A few speculations on its origin can be traced back to the Greek mythology for (a) Winged Magic Wand, Caduceus, of Greek God, Hermes, or (b) a staff with snake (actually not a snake but a parasite-worm) of Asclepius, a physician in Homer’s Illiad. Even though there is a room for the debate for its origin, I think that the biblical account is far more convincing for its far more ancient origin and historical precedence, relevant and plausible, and well-known throughout in the ancient world. Thus it may be safe to remind ourselves, when we are seeking the medical help and healing, that the ultimate healing and salvation is from the Lord (Rafael). (2) Is this bronze snake has a magic power of healing? No. Many believed and make this an idol and superstition that King Hezekiah destroyed (2 Kings 18:4).

Note 2 on John 3:8 and Proverb 30:2-4 and Ecclesiastes 11:5

I believe that Jesus is giving a quiz to Nicodemus who is the leading biblical scholar of his days. And it is truly one of the most advanced research topics of his days and with its accompanying question such as "What is the name of the Son of God?".