

**“*Born Free”***

John 3:5-9

*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. – John 3:6*

Jesus once said the Pharisee religious leaders were like “whitewashed tombs” appearing “righteous” on the outside but inside were full of “hypocrisy and wickedness” (Matt. 23:27). Can you think of Christian religious leaders today about who this could be said?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Nicodemus was one of these religious leaders that Jesus excoriated, yet he sought Jesus out. What qualities of character did Nicodemus show in doing so?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The “fresh air” of the Holy Spirit can fill us with the assurance that God is real, a thirst for His word, a desire to understand and do God’s will, and more. Which of these is strongest in your faith experience? Weakest? Are there other manifestations of the “”breeze of the Holy Spirit” in you?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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How has God spoken to you or otherwise “gotten your attention” through your personal circumstances? How were you changed? What has been the long term effect?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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In your opinion, what might God be saying to our culture with our present Corona-Virus crisis?

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Nicodemus took advantage of the quiet and stillness of the night to approach Jesus. How might Jesus be calling you to approach Him in this season of quiet and stillness brought on by our present crisis? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Distraction has always been the enemy of our growth in Christ. In this week when many of our usual distractions will be removed, what moves can you make towards Jesus? Write three things you will do this week to grow closer to God. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*“****In the quiet, under the cover of the stillness brought on by our current crisis, let us seek to know Jesus better. Let us seek to understand what God is up to in the world today. Let us seek to be born—or re-born—again, by the breeze of the Holy Spirit.”***