

# Illustrations of Salvation, Part 2

## "The Wind of Salvation is Blowing"

### John 3:8 - 12

#### **Introduction:**

1. The first illustration Jesus used was birth - a universal experience of mankind.
2. Jesus told Nicodemus that it was absolutely necessary for a person to be born again if he wanted to go to heaven.
3. Nicodemus did not understand, so Jesus used a second illustration - the Wind.

#### **I. New Birth is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. The word "Wind" in both the Hebrew and Greek languages can also be translated "Spirit".
- B. One of the symbols of the Spirit of God in the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  1. Job 33:4
  2. John 20:22
  3. Acts 2:2-4
  4. In these verses we can see that wind or breath is a symbol of the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.**

- A. Like the wind, the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ but powerful!
- B. You cannot explain or predict the movements of the wind.
- C. But the Spirit of God can do greater things than the wind can!

#### **III. The Illustration of Ezekiel's Valley of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. When Jesus used the symbol of the wind, Nicodemus should have easily remembered Ezekiel 37:1-14.
- B. The prophet saw a valley full of dead, dry bones: but when he prophesied to the wind, the Spirit came and gave the bones life.
- C. Here, it was the combination of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which gave life.
- D. If you have the Spirit you have \_\_\_\_\_; if you do not have the Spirit of God dwelling within you, you do not have life.

#### IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Birth.

- A. The new birth from above is a necessity, but it is also a mystery. It cannot be fully explained by logic or scientific methods.
- B. Our Lord told Nicodemus that his knowledge of the scriptures should have given him the light he needed.
- C. Unfortunately, the "teacher of the Jews", Nicodemus, knew the \_\_\_\_\_ recorded in the scriptures, but he could not understand the \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. What was the problem with the Pharisees?
  - 1. The religious leaders would not submit to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's witness.
  - 2. They claimed to believe \_\_\_\_\_, but they would not believe \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. The Pharisees were more about the praise of \_\_\_\_\_ than the praise of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4. They preferred to stick to their dry religious \_\_\_\_\_ rather than listen to what God was saying to them.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. We must be born again, that is, we need to be given spiritual life from the Spirit of God.
  - a. We can do nothing to create life, only God can create life.
  - b. Salvation is new life given to us from God, everlasting life; there is nothing we can do to get that life by ourselves.
  - c. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - d. We only have to accept it by faith and God does the rest.
- 2. This is the message we need to take to our friends and neighbors, that is, there is new life available from God.
  - a. We may not be able to fully explain this work of the Spirit, but we must tell others about it!
  - b. Are you sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who are spiritually dead **so** that God can breath new life into them? If you don't, who will?