

## Talk 3: The Subjective Spirit

Bible Readings: John 3:1-10; Acts 13:1-4

### 1. We're not in charge of the Spirit

- Blows where he wills (John 3)
- Why he came (John 16:7-15)

### 2. The personal speaking Spirit

- Speaks God's word to us  
(2 Tim 3:16-17; Acts 13:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Speaks into our circumstances (Acts 13:1-4, 16:6-7, 15:27-28)
- Speaks to the Father for us  
(Rom 8:26-27)

### 3. Potential pitfalls of the subjective Spirit seeker

- God told me
- The Spirit of the pious

John 3:1-10 New International Version (NIV)

## Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

**3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>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."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.<sup>[a]</sup>"

<sup>4</sup>"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!"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit<sup>[b]</sup> gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You<sup>[c]</sup> must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>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."<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>9</sup>"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup>"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

#### Footnotes:

- John 3:3** The Greek for *again* also means *from above*; also in verse 7.
- John 3:6** Or *but spirit*
- John 3:7** The Greek is plural.
- John 3:8** The Greek for *Spirit* is the same as that for *wind*.

Acts 13:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

**13** <sup>1</sup>Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup>So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

## On Cyprus

<sup>4</sup>The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.