

DO NOT BE SUPRISED

Jesus told Nicodemus *”You should not be surprised at my saying, You must be born again.” John 3:7*

Nicodemus was attracted to Jesus because of the signs He was performing.

John 2:23 Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover and had performed many miraculous signs among the people - and they believed in His Name because of the signs.

Nicodemus said to Jesus, *“Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs that you are doing if God was not with him.” John 3:2*

Jesus replied *“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” John 3:3*

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.” John 3:8

Jesus uses two analogies

1. Natural Birth

Flesh can only reproduce flesh.

2. Wind

The wind blows wherever it pleases.

No one has control over the Spirit of God.

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised my brothers, if the world hates you.

Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 1 John 3:12

John uses the example of Cain and Able and the different attitudes and actions of each man.

Cain was envious of his brother.

Cain's discontentment of himself, produced an insecurity within him that led to a jealous attitude toward his brother.

Christ should be our full satisfaction and joy.

To have an inner revelation of His full acceptance gives us security in our own calling and service to God.

Discontentment causes envy and jealousy of others.

Which leads to harmful and sinful attitudes and behaviour to us and then to others.

Cain and Able is an example of the difference between believers and unbelievers.

Do not be surprised..., if the world hates you.

Don't become offended, upset, or confused.

Why?

Jesus experienced people's hatred and rejection of Himself and everything He stood for. We are not alone

Jesus told us to *'take heart'* because He has overcome the world. **John 16:33**

Psalm 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

A prepared table is a feast = God's provision of grace, courage, perseverance, peace when we are facing trouble, tension, uncertain times or tragedy.

Psalm 117:7 They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.