



# Daily Reflections

**April 10, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **John 3: 7-15**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"You must be born from above.'

The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus answered and said to him,

'How can this happen?'"

Jesus answered and said to him,

"You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?

Amen, amen, I say to you,

we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony.

If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has gone up to heaven

except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,

so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Never before has the distinction been more clear between the way "above" and the way "below" as it is in the times we now live. The lies, the hatred, the violence, especially against the unborn, the confusion as the result of mixed and conflicting messages from those in authority all make life difficult. As followers of Jesus we need not worry, however. He came from above to show us how to live a Grace-filled life. Nicodemus longed for such a life. That life is available to us through the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is pray, trust and live it.

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### Food for your Journey

Jaime Potter-Miller recalls when she was on a visit to the then Soviet Union, and was invited to speak and sing before a bursting-at-the-seams congregation. In order to make her way across the crowded meeting hall to sing her solo, Miller had to exit the building to re-enter it on the correct side. Outside the church door she ran into a young man, who introduced himself as Patrick. Miller says,

"I invited him to come in, but he shook his head. 'You are a believer?' he asked me. I nodded. The vodka on his breath stung my eyes. His jacket revealed red flag pins embossed with the face of Vladimir Lenin. If he was not a Communist, he certainly wanted to look like one. In excellent English he spit out the words, 'You are a believer! Show me your Holy Spirit! I cannot believe what I cannot see! Where is it? What does it look like? Where can I touch it? It's all a fantasy! A child's game!' I took his hand and led him to the door.... I said, 'Patrick, I will show you the Holy Spirit if you will show me the wind.' We watched out on the street as blossoms and leaves blew around. Flags flapped and babushka'd women left a trail of fringe. He began to describe what he was seeing. I said, 'No, Patrick, you're telling what the wind does. Show me the wind. For I, too, can show you what the Holy Spirit does. But I cannot show you the Spirit anymore than you can show me the wind.'

"Patrick became very quiet. Now I've been around enough to know that just because you've silenced someone doesn't mean you've won. So I continued. Borrowing the device from my early years as a mother, I cupped his face in my hands. Borrowing wisdom from Brother E. Stanley Jones, I spoke his

name, 'Patrick, if you are right and there is no God, then I have lost nothing by believing. But if I am right and you are wrong, then you have lost everything.'

"Patrick's eyes filled with tears and he ran out the door as I assured him that every time he felt the wind blow, he would remember that there was a Christian in America praying for him. "

--Jaime Potter-Miller

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Heavenly Father, By virtue of my Baptism into Your Son, Jesus, I have been given an opportunity to live a whole new way of life. When I live each day as closely as I can to You and Your Son, I experience joy, even in the midst of my daily burdens. Keep me faithful to You and the way Your Son teaches me so that I may give a vibrant witness to those who long for true Peace in their lives. Amen.