



# Daily Reflections

**April 30, 2019**

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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

Nicodemus' question, "How can this happen", echoes all the way into our own day. Back then he questioned Jesus because his sources of religious information were wrapped up in the Old Testament scriptures along with the teachings of the rabbis and scribes. And that was it. That Jesus of Nazareth, a man of thirty, could have another way that transcended traditional thinking was more than he could digest. But little has changed by 2019. So many people have a difficult time accepting Jesus because unless He and His teaching can be demonstrated through the use of science and technology then they are invalid. What the moderns fail to realize and accept is that faith is a means of knowing Him.

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## **Food for your Journey**

What "born again" in the gospel means, however, is literally to begin all over again, to be given a second birth, a second chance. The one who is born again doesn't all of a sudden get turned into a super-Christian. To be born again is to enter afresh into the process of spiritual growth. It is to wipe the slate clean. It is to cancel your old mortgage and start again. In other words, you don't have to be always what you have now become. Such an offer is too good to be true for many, confusing for most, but for those who seek to be other than what they are now, who want to be more than the mere accumulation and sum total of their experiences, the invitation, "You must be born again," is an offer you cannot afford to refuse.

—Peter J. Gomes, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible With Mind and Heart* (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1996), 188.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, The world hungers and thirsts for Jesus even though it can be too arrogant to realize it. Help me to be a witness to His Presence through my words and actions. May people come to see Him and believe in Him through me. Amen