Lesson #6 Born of the Spirit (Born Again)

Opening Shot:
It is clear that to do the work of the Great Commission (reaching out to the world with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus) we must have the Holy Spirit living in us. Peter told the crowd at Pentecost that they must “repent and be baptized” and that they would receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. And he said that this promise was for them, for their children and for all who were far off – “for all whom the Lord our God will call.” That means us!

Introduction to Bible Truths: (OPTIONAL)
Acts 2:38-39 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
1 John 4:13-14 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:
1.) Why do I need the Holy Spirit living in my life?
2.) Can you catch hold of the Holy Spirit and make Him come live in your life?
3.) How do I get the Holy Spirit in my life?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:
John 3:1-8 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 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.”
1 Peter 1:23 For you have been born again... through the living and enduring word of God.
1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

Parting Shot:
Jesus said that “the Spirit gives birth to spirit” and that we must be “born again.” It is not enough for us to have “head knowledge” about God, or even for us to sincerely desire to do better. We need something that only God can give us: the gift of a changed heart and of a new spirit. This is something so different that Jesus called it being “born again.” There is no way of capturing the Holy Spirit, for He is like the wind, which blows where it will. But when the Holy Spirit comes to us and invites us to believe in Jesus, we need to accept His invitation to have this gift God offers. The Holy Spirit is intimately involved with the “new birth” of each believer: He gives birth to our spirit. All true believers (those who believe that Jesus is the Christ) are born of God.
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