

Everyday FAITH Family Page

3 in 1: Discovering Our

Triune God

Key Point

Jesus taught Nicodemus that the Holy Spirit works a new birth of faith through Baptism. This is true for me too.

Bible Words

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Law/Gospel

My sinful nature does not believe in Jesus as Savior or understand God's ways. God the Holy Spirit works in a sure and certain way through Baptism and delivers all His good gifts to me, especially faith.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help us always to remember our Baptism and the gifts You provide in it—forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Spirit Creates Faith: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

John 3:1-16

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a teacher of the Law, and a member of the Council, a group of scholars and priests in charge of the temple and Jewish legal proceedings. When Nicodemus heard Jesus teach, the Holy Spirit began to work in his heart. This knowledgeable and powerful man realized he still had much to learn.

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and told Him that he believed Jesus was from God after seeing His miracles. Jesus said, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Nicodemus was confused and thought Jesus was saying he had to enter his mother's womb and be physically born again.

Instead, Jesus pointed Nicodemus to Holy Baptism, where we are born again through water and the Spirit and adopted into God's family as His own children. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word and Sacraments to give us faith in Christ our Savior so that we might have new life, now and forever.

The words of life Jesus gave Nicodemus are for us also: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (v. 16).

Catechism Connection: Baptism

Who instituted Holy Baptism?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, after His death and resurrection, commanded His Church to baptize all nations.

Matthew 28:19–20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Question 299, Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation



