

## Got Life? John 3:1-21

- Life Takes on many forms.
- Those life forms have different durations of time and some forms of life are eternal.
- Our bodies have an 'earth-life' time limit.
- The body will die and go back to dust or they will be changed in the air and become eternal.
- Our natural born souls, our software, our **Psuche ('Sukay') Life** that is tied to our bodies and our earthly life, is eternal.
- Sukay Life's destination is determined by us, but not the eternal duration: there is no cessation of 'sukay' life.
- If **Sukay Life** that does not experience conversion, when the body dies, we will be forever separated from Heaven in places called Hell and then in Outer Darkness
- But by experiencing a new birth, a New Life Form, called **Zoe Life** whereby we are made alive unto God and reside with Him forever starting on our New Birth Day on earth in our Adam Modeled Bodies
- and continuing when we get to Heaven in our new Jesus Modeled Bodies.
  
- Our software lives, if we are born a second time or again, are then two: **Sukay Life and Zoe Life**
- And they come from two sources:
  - Sukay Life** comes from the fallen, sinful Adam, who passed it on down to us thru our biological parents.
  - Zoe Life** comes directly from the Father thru the Son and this Zoe Life is in the image of the Son
- Our bodily life and its activities fall under **Bios Life** as directed by our Sukay Life or our Zoe Life
- If we have all three life forms they all work together in one person: YOU

### **Life Words in the NT: 1 John 1:2** Says: **the Life was manifested.**

- This Life, Zoe Life was never manifested before the incarnation of Jesus Christ after Adam sinned.
- Two dominant words translated 'life' in the NT are 'psuche' or soul life, the life we are born with
- and Zoe Life, the life we are 'born again', with.
- Sometimes a 3<sup>rd</sup> word bios is used as in the pleasures of life, and life's physical needs.
- Sukay Life** is used by Jesus when speaking of laying down His Sukay Life for our dead Sukay Life.
- Zoe** is not used in reference to laying down His life, but is used in reference to the life He would give to those who believe, the life He was manifesting when he walked and talked on earth.
- The 'Zoe' life which comes from God to us in our new birth is a natural characteristic of God's life.
- The Life, '**Zoe Life**' was manifested in Christ, , and only manifested in Christ.
- Christ also had 'soul life' the life of mankind, but sinless and without Adam's sin nature.
- But His Sukay Life was not the life He manifested in the Gospels, but that was the life He laid down:
- Perfect Sukay Life for our Dead Sukay lives....

### **The English word life in the NKJV**

- is used 193 times in the NT in 175 verses.
- Zoe Life** is an important Word and concept for the Apostle John
- It is Used 64 times in all of John's writings out of the 134 usages in the NT, nearly half of all uses.
- Zoe is the dominant word for life in the NT versus all other words for Life, whether Psuche or Bios.
- Why is that?
- Jesus did not come to give us Psuche Life Band Aids, but to manifest Zoe life and to give us Zoe life ...
- .... after His death, burial, and resurrection, took care of the sin issues associated with 'sukay life 'and 'bios life issues'
- So it makes sense that of the 193 usages of the word **life** in the New Testament, 134 are Zoe
- and the rest of the words for life are dominated by Sukay Life, followed by Bios,

-Having reviewed all 134 uses of 'zoe' in the NT we find them either referring to the life possessed by and lived out sinlessly by Christ or the eternal or higher life we are given and are to walk in as believers...

-**Sukay Life** is predominantly used of the life we displayed before we knew Christ, or unfortunately the life we often displayed after we received Zoe life.

-Zoe life is given to us as life, in our new birth thru faith in Christ.

-Zoe Life should be the dominant life form manifested in our lives

-But our Sukay Life, our Bios Life are still with us and we as Believers must choose....

-..... to either manifest the Life of Christ or the Life of Adam in sin.

-Sukay and Zoe are only used together in one verse: **John 12:25**

**25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

### **So let's have some group participation**

-Which word 'sukay' or 'zoe' is used in the following verses?

-Let's practice saying these two Greek words for life: '**Sukay**' and '**Zoe**'

Let's start with **John 12:25**

**25 He who loves his life (sukay) will lose it, and he who hates his life (sukay) in this world will keep it eternally for eternal life (zoe).**

**Matthew 20:28**

**28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life (sukay) a ransom for many."**

**1 John 1:2**

**2 the life (zoe) was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—**

**John 15:13**

**13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life (sukay) for his friends.**

**Romans 6:4**

**4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (zoe).**

**2Corinthians 4:10-12**

**10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life (zoe) of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.**

**11 For we who live (zoe) are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life (zoe) of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

**12 So then death is working in us, but life (zoe) in you.**

**Ephesians 4:17-18**

**17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,**

**18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life (zoe) of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;**

### **Why is all of this important?**

Because of the teaching by Jesus in **John 3:1-21**

**v.1** reads .....**There was a man of the Pharisees (which means he was also a Rabbi) named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews (meaning he was a member of the Sanhedrin).**

**Dr. Arnold:** Several things can be deduced concerning Nicodemus from these few statements that we have.

**First**, we find that he was a Pharisee, which means he was a rabbi. In order to understand why this is important to this interview, it should be noted what Phar-i-sa-ic Judaism believed.

-According to the Pharisees, "All Israel has a share in the world to come."

-Another part of Phar-i-sa-ic Theology stated: "Abraham sits at the gates of Gehenna to save any Israelite consigned thereto."

-So, according to Phariseeism, to be born a Jew physically was enough for entrance into the Kingdom. While Gentiles had to convert to Judaism, Jews themselves, by virtue of being born Jews, qualified for entrance into the Kingdom.

**v.2a This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know (others beside Nic. Had the same curiosity) that You are a teacher come from God;**

-Not 'the' Teacher but 'a' teacher

-Not come down from God, but sent by God

-Jesus claimed 9 times in John alone to 'come down from The Father in Heaven', 3:13, 6:33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58, 8:42, 13:3, 16:28,

**v.2b for no one can do these signs (of chapter 2 v. 23) that You do unless God is with him."**

-So Nicodemus is convinced that Jesus is a man sent by God, but not necessarily come down from God.

-He is convinced that Jesus is a teacher, not THE teacher (later Jesus will call Nicodemus THE teacher of Israel)

-I believe 'Nic' at Night is telling Jesus all of this because he has seen enough, and heard of enough from Jesus to ask him what is the latest news on the Kingdom of God...

-But before he can ask Him anything about the Kingdom out loud Jesus cuts Him off

-and answers his unspoken question about the Kingdom of God....

**v.3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again (or from above as in 3:31, and 19:11), he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

-You want to know the latest on the Kingdom, here it is: Jewish Heritage is not enough to see.

-You must be born a second time, from above not from any earth source

-Born 'anothen' Translated 'from above' four times as in **John 19:11: Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you 'anothen' from above.**

-The Better translation here would be: born from above, from Heaven, from the Father in Heaven as opposed to your earthly father

-Thru this statement earthly ethnicity has now become of no importance in this Age to come.

-The measurements of being spiritual and by righteous law keeping is no longer enough

-A new birth is required of every person.

-At least eighty-five New Testament passages assert that a Christian is a changed person by virtue of the fact that he has received the very Zoe Life of God, a life that was issued in regeneration and brings about a new disposition or dominant influence in our total life.

**Nic responds....** Latching on to the phrase 'born again' he responds to Jesus .....

**4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"**

-How can a man experience birth when in his old age?

-Not born again but a birth of any kind when old.

**-Dr. Arnold:** To fully understand why he posed the question as he did, it is necessary to understand that in Phar-i-sa-ic Judaism, there were six different ways of being born again, *meaning a second time not necessarily from above*. Nicodemus qualified for four of the six ways. The two ways for which he was not qualified were: **First**, when Gentiles converted to Judaism, they were said to be born again. Since Nicodemus was not a Gentile, he could not qualify in this manner.

A **second** way he did not qualify was to be crowned king, for when a man was crowned king, he was said to be born again. Nothing is said about Nicodemus having been of the House of David, and hence, he was not of royal lineage.

But there were four other ways to be born again, and Nicodemus qualified for all four:

**First**, when a Jewish boy becomes bar mitzvah at the age of thirteen, he is said to be born again. At that age, he subjects himself to the Mosaic Law and is responsible for his own sins. Since Nicodemus was beyond the age of thirteen, he had already experienced his bar mitzvah.

A **second** way was by marriage, for when a Jew married, he was said to be born again. Although nothing is said about Nicodemus' wife, it has been clearly stated that he was a member of the Sanhedrin. One of the rules for becoming a member of the Sanhedrin was that one must be married and so we know from this that Nicodemus was married.

**Thirdly**, another way that a Jew could be born again was to be ordained as a rabbi. Since Nicodemus was a Pharisee, he had been ordained as a rabbi, and was born again in a third way.

The final and **fourth** way to be born again in Judaism was to become the head of a rabbinical school. In verse 10, Jesus said to Nicodemus that he was "the teacher of Israel." The one who was the head of rabbinical school was always referred to as 'the teacher of Israel'. Hence, Nicodemus was also the head of a rabbinical school.

The point, then, is this: Nicodemus had undergone every process available in Judaism to be born again. There was no other way available in Judaism and so the only way he could see being born again at his age was to re-enter his mothers' womb and start the process all over again.

**Not answering Nick's 'how' Jesus insists on the 'must' of two births ....**

**v.5** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of or out of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

**-Dr. Arnold** Continues....It was to this problem of Phar-i-sa-ic theology that Ye-shua addressed Himself. He clearly told Nicodemus that, "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

-To be born of water was a Jewish expression for physical birth. According to Phar-i-sa-ic theology, being born of water, or being born physically as a Jew, was sufficient for entrance into the Kingdom.

-But Jesus told him that being born of water was not enough, for "one must be born of water **and the Spirit** to enter into the Kingdom of God."

-..... for physical birth by itself is not sufficient to provide entrance into the Kingdom.

-He explained this further when He said in **v.6**, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Here, He again clearly explained the two kinds of births.

-There must be a spiritual birth for one to be able to enter into the Kingdom of God.

-So Nicodemus' being born a Jew, was insufficient; he must have a spiritual rebirth to really be born again.

**v. 7** Do not marvel or be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

-Anticipating at least an internal reaction by Nicodemus!

## Jesus then talks about the Spirit, the agent behind the new birth ....

### He starts with an illustration ...

-Let me give you Nicodemus a natural illustration of how this happens from 'up above's' perspective  
**v.8a** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes.

....Then the illustration is unveiled

**So it is for everyone who is born of or out of the Spirit."**

.... Nicodemus then focuses not on who or the nature of the new birth, but on the 'how' .....

**v.9** Nicodemus answered and said to Him, **"How can these things be?"**

-Jesus then makes a very strong implication that Nic at Night should know How this Spirit birth is enabled to done .....

**v.10** Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and *you do not know the how of these things?*

-I understand Nic you do not know the who does these things, but the how you should know

**v.11** Most assuredly, I say to you, we *(He and John B)* speak what we know and testify what we have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

-The How is not only in your Scriptures and as a The Teacher you should know what the Scriptures say

-BUT We J.B. and myself have testified of these things and you have not received our witness

**v.12** *If I have told you earthly things (spiritual things of the K of G that I explained on earth) and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things or the things going on in Heaven regarding the future K of G on earth?*

### Here is the 'How' ....

#### Step one....

-Note: The Apostle John writing many years after this meeting, after the cross and after the Ascension gives the answer and adds an editorial post script to this narrative....

**v.13** No one has ascended to heaven *(on His or Her's own righteousness)* but He who came down from heaven *(and became the Son of Man)*, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

#### Step two.... after He came down

**v.14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up *(in the future, from this meeting with Nicodemus)*,

#### Step three of the How ....

**v.15** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

### Why, what is God's motive? .....

**v.16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life *and this is the life of a new birth from above.*

-What kind of life? Zoe

**Why was His sending the Son into the world necessary? ....**

**v.17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

-The world needed saving ....

..... Or let me Putting it another way ....

**v.18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, *Why is he condemned?* because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Why is their condemnation?**

**v.19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has always *in the past and even now* come into the world, and men *agape* loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**v.20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

**In contrast ....**

**v.21** But he (*the one who believes*) who does or lives by the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

-And what if they are not? Then **1 John 1:7** comes into play:

**v.7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Now that we have the Necessity for Regeneration and that necessity was laid on The Teacher of Israel**

**Let us Look The Nature of Zoe Life ....**

The nature of regenerated, Zoe Life **concerns ten key elements:**

**The first** element is that regeneration is that it is a necessity because everyone is born spiritually dead; therefore, we need a second birth, to be regenerated, to be made alive.

**Ephesians 2:5** reads: *even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive.*

-Note the verb 'made alive' built around 'Zoe', our word for the life that Jesus Manifested and desires to give us thru rebirth

-So this being 'made alive' is not resuscitation, but alive thru a second birth with the life that was Manifested by Christ.

**The second** element of the nature of regeneration is the concept of birth in that the believer is "born of God" (**Jn. 1:13** .....*children of God* .... *born of or out of God himself* as opposed to Adam).

-The active agent of this new birth is the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:5-6 .... *born of the Spirit*...).

**The third** element of the nature of regeneration is that the basis of or the reason regeneration can even take place is the blood of the Messiah.

-A person is regenerated when he exercises faith, but the basis of it, the reason that God even chooses to regenerate a person when he believes, is because of the blood of the Messiah

**-1Peter 1:19** in part reads ..... *redeemed ... with the precious blood of Christ* ....

**The fourth** element of the nature of regeneration is that it is a manifestation of the power of God.

-No one can regenerate except God.

-No one can impart eternal life except God.

-**1 Peter 1:3**, which reads: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten or regenerated us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

-It takes the power of the resurrection to re-birth us. Only He has that power.

**The fifth** element of the nature of regeneration is that it is a fundamental change:

-There is a fundamental change within the character of the person, so that there is suddenly a wide chasm between those who are in an unbelieving, unsaved state as over against being in a believing, saved state.

-This known as the change of our **Ruling Disposition**.

-However the personality does not changed, but with a new ruling disposition the personality and character honed and shaped into that which is befitting Christ Himself. Note Paul and Peter

**The sixth** element of the nature of regeneration is that it is also an instantaneous change, not a gradual work that leads to conversion.

-It is also not a process that leads to sanctification.

-Rather, we are passive in this experience;

-It is an instantaneous change brought about by the power of God by means of the Holy Spirit on the basis of a person's exercise of faith.

**The seventh** element of the nature of regeneration is that it is irresistible (Jn. 3:8).

-The point is that, once a person has believed, he cannot say, "Don't regenerate me."

-The moment a person believes, regeneration takes place automatically; it is irresistible, unstoppable, it non-reversible.

**The eighth** element of the nature of regeneration is that it is to be distinguished from conversion.

-Conversion is the human side of regeneration.

-We sometimes confuse 'conversion' with 'regeneration', but they are not the same thing.

-The nature of regeneration as an act of God is to be distinguished from conversion, which is the human exercise of faith

**The ninth** element of the nature of regeneration is that faith exercised and regeneration occur simultaneously.

-Although faith is the requirement for regeneration to take place, a person does not exercise faith at one point and is regenerated some time later.

-Nor is the believer first regenerated, and only then does he exercise faith: that is an erroneous Calvinist teaching.

-Rather, faith and regeneration should be viewed as occurring simultaneously.

-The very instant that a person believes, at that very point in time, regeneration occurs.

**The tenth** element is that this **Zoe Life** and how it is manifested, will like Christ's life on earth.

-'Life was manifested' according to 1 John 1:2 and according to v.3 the manifester was Jesus Christ.

-The zoe life, was manifested for the first time since Adam was Created and 'lives' were breathed into him.

-One was zoe and the other sukay, according to the LXX.

-When Adam sinned zoe died and then 900+ years later his body with, with sukay life living on in Sheol until Christ came and manifested life and imparted it thru faith in His finished work on the cross.

**Got Life?**

God's life?

**How do you know that you have Zoe Life?**

**What is the evidence of regeneration in our earthly life?**

**We will draw from 1 John to identify the evidence that should be evident over time.....**

-John is speaking to three age generations of Christians

-Fathers, young men and little children,

-Plenty of time has passed since John wrote his Gospel and to see and know 'Zoe life characteristics', things that we are about to review

-John the aged gives three reasons for why he is writing this letter

-We start with two verses in 1 John. After having written nearly 5 chapters he says this in: **1 John 5:13.**

**13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know or see clearly that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

-The first mention of Life in 1 John is in 1:1 and into v.2:

**1 John 1:1-2** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

**2** the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

So for the first time in History of Mankind, since Adam was sinless, life, zoe life was manifested

-and those of us who believe have that life .....

**The question is have we manifested Zoe Life like He did?**

**Here is how we and others know that we have This life Manifested in our lives ....**

**#1 We keep His Commandments, 1John 2:3-5**

**3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

**4** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

**5** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

**#2 Our Love For Him Far Surpasses Any Love for the World, 1 John 2:15-17**

**15** Do not love, *agape* the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**16** For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

**17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**#3 Because we love the brethren, 1John 3:14-15**

**14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

**15** Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

**16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

#### **#4 Those who know God hears the Apostles teachings of the NT, 1John 4:6**

**6** We are of *born of* God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**We end with 1Thes. 5:23** ..and I'm quoting from the Y.L.T., which uses the same Greek Text as the NKJV

#### **23** And the God of the peace

-The finished work of the cross has put us on a peace footing with our God ....

-There are many pseudo peaces in the world, many false peaces, many temporary peaces, but this is THE PEACE

Paul continues .... **Himself, sanctify** or *set apart unto Himself all of you wholly (all of you as a whole person), and may your whole spirit (pneuma, your zoe life), and whole soul (psuche life), and whole body (your bios life), be preserved or kept unblameably in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ here and now and when we appear before Him.*

-We are one complex person, though many parts

-Your are responsible for all of your parts in this order of priority: Spirit, soul and body

-Got life? Which life is on top: Zoe, Spirt or sukay, soul, or bios, body

-What does the evidence of your life outside of these walls say?

Let's Pray and Prepare for Communion