



**BORN AGAIN:
WHAT'S IT MEAN?**

John 3:1-21

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
YOUR RELIGION AND MINE?**

**JUST 2 WORDS. YOURS SAYS, DO
AND MINE SAYS, DONE!**



Nicodemus

(John 3:1-2)

- **A Jewish religious leader**
- **A Pharisee-
followed
legalism**
- **A member of
the
Sanhedrin**



Didn't know what to think about Jesus

- **Impressed by miracles**
- **Must be “from God”**
- **Calls Jesus Rabbi**
- **Comes to Jesus “at night”**
- **Comes alone, but represents others**
- **See Jesus as a possible Messiah/King**

Jesus speaks

(John 3:3)

- **Before Nicodemus gets to say what he wants**
- **Main message: You must be born again! (vv. 3,7)**
- **You don't understand God's plan or why I came.**
- **Your religion is not enough to save you.**
- **You must be born again (from above)**

Nicodemus is confused

(v. 4)

- **How can this be?
It's impossible!**

Jesus explains

(John 3:5-13)

- **Flesh can only give birth to flesh; only God's Spirit can give birth to spirit.**

Jesus describes the “lost” person

- **They are flesh (v. 6)**
 - **There is nothing good in them apart from God**
 - **Their behavior is wicked**
- **They are dead (v. 6)**
 - **Spiritually lifeless**

Jesus describes the “lost” person

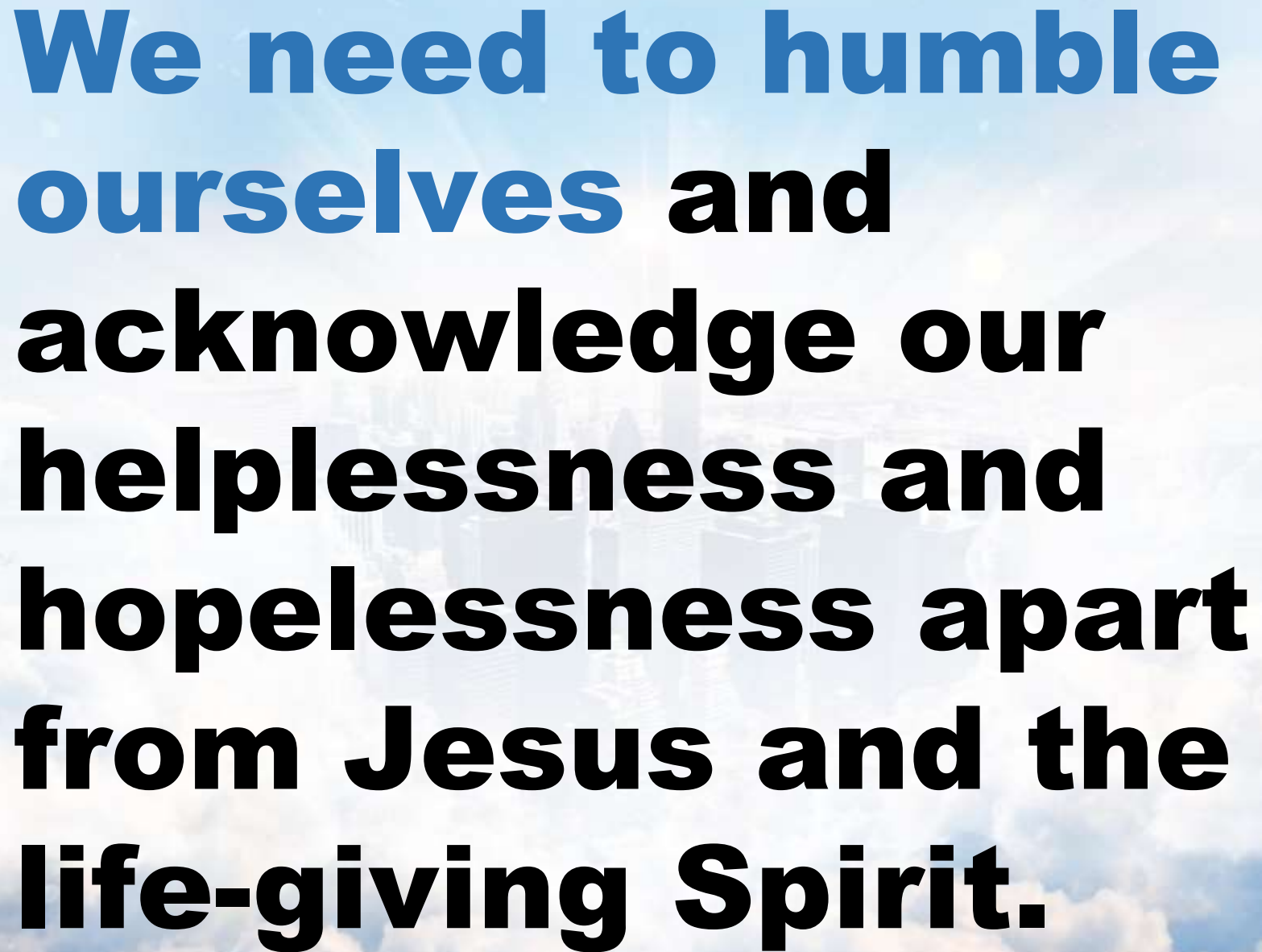
- **Their religious efforts are useless works of the flesh**
- **There is a difference between religion and being born again**

Where does this leave us? (vs. 8)

- **We don't control salvation; God's spirit does!**
- **We are at the mercy of a sovereign God who saves whomever he chooses through His Word and Spirit.**

We need to examine our own hearts to see if we are born again.

- **Romans 8:7** Are you controlled by our flesh or the Holy Spirit?
- **1 Cor. 12:3** Do you honor the name of Jesus and treat Him as your Lord and Master?
- **Romans 8:15-16** Do you have a childlike love for and trust in God?
- **1 Cor. 2:14** Are you attracted to spiritual things and hungry for Bible truth?
- **1 John 4:7** Do you love others more than self?

The background of the slide features a city skyline with several skyscrapers, overlaid with a bright, glowing sunburst or lens flare effect that radiates from the center. The sky is a clear, light blue. The text is centered and reads:

We need to humble ourselves and acknowledge our helplessness and hopelessness apart from Jesus and the life-giving Spirit.

**We need to be
desperate for the
Spirit to be at work
in us.**

