

**Series:** When the Holy Spirit Makes a Mess Series  
**Part 4 – What Only the Spirit Can Do (Father’s Day)**  
**Text:** John 3:1-8 (ESV)

**BIG IDEA:** Only the Holy Spirit can create the spiritual life that every person needs to enter the kingdom of God.

## **I. HUMAN EFFORT CANNOT PRODUCE SPIRITUAL LIFE**

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 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?’” **John 3:1-4**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” **Matthew 5:27-28**

**Personal Application:** Ask yourself where your confidence rests today. Are you trusting in spiritual disciplines, knowledge, family heritage, or your moral record? Or are you resting in the work that God alone can do through His Spirit?

## **II. THE SPIRIT CREATES WHAT FLESH NEVER CAN**

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”” **John 3:5-7**

**Personal Application:** Have you viewed your walk with God primarily as improvement or transformation? Ask yourself whether your goal has become being a better version of yourself, or becoming the person the Spirit is creating you to be.

## **III. THE EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE REVEALS THE SPIRIT'S WORK**

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **John 3:8**

**Personal Application:** If someone examined the direction of your life rather than the claims of your lips, would they find evidence of spiritual life? Not perfection, but a growing love for Christ, a growing hunger for God's Word, and a growing desire to please Him.

## **CONCLUSION**

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves."  
**2 Corinthians 13:5**