

# World Punctuation Day.

Today is a very special day!.... it's being celebrated around the world.

Its 'World Punctuation Day'

Lets eat Grandma! Comma's Save Lives!

But today is a special day for other reasons too!.

Did you know I have something in common with Somebody very famous?

Let's Give you a Clue... (put on crown.)

The Queen.

Here's another clue...

The Queen has TWO Birthdays!

Bob Mullins Has TWO birthdays.!!

There was a famous man in the bible who was told he needed Two Birthdays...

**Nicodemus...** *He was one of the Jewish rulers... He came to Jesus Secretly.... At night.*

*He said, "Sir, We know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you."*

*Jesus replied, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can see God's kingdom without being born again."*

**Nicodemus said,** *"How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?"*

*Jesus answered: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit.*

*Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God.*

Nicodemus knew that being born again was humanly & physically impossible!

Even today people are still asking the questions Nicodemus asked....

*How can a man be born again...? I don't understand it!*

How can a black cow eat green grass and produce white milk and yellow butter? I don't understand that. I might say, "Because I don't understand it, I'm never going to drink milk again."

What does *'by water, but by the Spirit'* mean?

**Some teach** that it means you can't be born again without being baptized...

But that clearly not true....the thief that was crucified beside Jesus believed... and was told *'Today you will be with me in paradise...'* But he was never Baptized!!

We are all born 'by water'... every human being on earth was born this way...

But the Bible says we need to be born of water AND the Spirit.....It means we need to be born **SPIRITUALLY**

Because we are familiar with the Story of Nicodemus... we usually stop reading or thinking about it when we read *'How can a man be born again...?'*

But think lets about this some more... Nicodemus has come to Jesus asking this really big life or death question..... Do you seriously think that Jesus sent him away without the proper answer to his question?

Yet the answer Jesus gave him is one of the most famous verses in the whole Bible! So famous we tend to separate it from the story of Nicodemus.

So what was the Answer?

**John 3:16-18**

*God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.*

**God did not send** his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.

Many people today are like Nicodemus... they have lots of questions... they are looking for truth...looking for salvation.... But it's not 'fashionable' or 'cool' to appear interested in Jesus... So they too come at night...

Jesus answers to people today are The Same... given to Nicodemus. The trouble is most people don't realize that they are seeking a **Physical** solution to a **Spiritual** problem. A Human Solution to a Heavenly Problem

This balloon is like my life... But it's flat.... Empty... even worse it's Weighed down with Sin. (Marked cups) & all sorts of other problems.

The Heavenly solution to our Human problem is as simple as ABC

**A - Admit .... to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin.**

*"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23*

**B – Believe ....that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin.**

*"While we were sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8*

**C – Confess.... Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.**

*"If you will confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead...,you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

We need to do our Spiritual ABC... So Jesus becomes our Lord and we give him control of our lives.... Then the Holy Spirit fills us with His power & presence.... And something wonderful happens.... (Inflate Balloon)

But Satan doesn't like that.... And he chucks all manner of things at our hearts & lives to get us to Give up... or even deflate us completely...

When we are anchored in Christ.... These things might 'hit' us but they can't bring us down!

And one day... we will be released from these Earthly bodies... and go to join him forever in heaven... That is GOOD NEWS.

Maybe You are sitting here today and you feel weighed down with your sins & problems have never done your 'ABC' s

Perhaps you once walked more closely with Jesus.... But have been battered by things that Life...& Satan have tried to discourage you with.

Or maybe you are just a believer who wants to be continually filled with His presence.

We are going to pray... I just want you to follow this prayer in your own heart as we focus on Jesus.... Here's the prayer.

*Dear God, I am a sinner. I'm sorry for my sin and turn away from it; please forgive me. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and that He died for my sins and You raised Him to life. I want to invite Him into my heart as Lord... to take control of my life. Fill me with your presence In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.*

If you prayed that prayer for the first time just now... I want to do something to help you...

You need to tell somebody that you have given your life to Jesus! So don't be afraid... Come & tell me! I will be Thrilled!! & would Love to give you a Bible.

Maybe you are facing problems in life... or need healing... or just want to get closer to Jesus & be filled again... When we close I will be here with some others at the front to pray for you...