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¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This 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.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

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⁷“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The 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 3:1-8 ESV

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A Conversation

“You don’t need more religion.”

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“Most of us don’t mind Jesus making some minor changes in our lives, but Jesus wants to turn our lives upside down. Fans don’t mind Him doing a little touch-up work, but Jesus wants complete renovation. Fans come to Jesus thinking tune-up, but Jesus is thinking overhaul. Fans think a little makeup is fine, but Jesus is thinking make over. Fans think a little decorating is required, but Jesus wants a complete remodel. Fans want Jesus to inspire them, but Jesus wants to interfere with their lives.” —Kyle Idelman

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A Clarification

“You need a new operating system.”

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Romans 3:6-7

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You don't need to do something for God. You need God to do something for you that you can't do for yourself.

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He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

—Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV

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Two features of the new operating system:

The Spirit of God	Romans 3:6-7
The Word of God	Romans 3:10-13

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...²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you. —1 Peter 1:23-25 ESV

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A Conclusion
 “You must personally respond to
 God’s divine offer.”

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We are to simply believe because
 Christ selflessly, sacrificially and willingly
 became one of us (the manger).

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But when the fullness of time had come,
 God sent forth His Son, born of woman,
 born under the law. —Galatians 4:4 ESV

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We are to simply believe because
 Christ selflessly, sacrificially and willingly
 bore the debt of sin (the cross).

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...¹⁹that is, in Christ God was
 reconciling the world to Himself, not
 counting their trespasses against them,
 and entrusting to us the message of
 reconciliation.²⁰Therefore, we are
 ambassadors for Christ, God making
 His appeal through us. We implore you
 on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to
 God.²¹For our sake He made Him to
 be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him
 we might become the righteousness of
 God. —2 Corinthians 5:19-21 ESV

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We are to simply believe because Christ
 selflessly, sacrificially and willingly bestowed
 power by His resurrection (the empty tomb).

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²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

—John 11:25-26 ESV

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The call of Christ is a call to “believe.”
It is the human response to the divine
work of reconciliation.

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For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son, that
whoever believes in Him should
not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16 ESV

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