

GOSPEL PEARLS

Permanent conversion

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Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one

has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” (John 3: 7b-15)

The path which Jesus indicates to Nicodemus is that of conversion. This consists of truly being reborn. The steps to experience conversion are impossible by human strength alone, even when one is convinced of his goodness. We must receive help through the Holy Spirit. Do we realize that we must convert more and more every day to God and His will? Do we seek the help for our conversion through divine grace or do we rely only on our own strength?