

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Let’s state it clearly: One great idea of the biblical revelation is that God is manifest in the ordinary, in the actual, in the daily, in the now, in the concrete.” – Richard Rohr

### Field

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. . . .” <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **John 3: 1-8 &16**

### Thoughts by Kyle Minden

My most cherished possession is my Lutheran Study Bible. My parents gave it to me for my high school graduation, and I used it throughout my four years studying religion at Wartburg College. This Bible has hundreds of brightly colored tabs sticking out of the top, side, and bottom, and is filled with my indistinguishable scribbles. But what makes this Bible truly special are the notes inside. As part of my gift, my mother invited everyone with whom I had a close relationship to highlight their favorite Bible verse, write their name, and jot down a short message. One of my greatest sources of comfort is flipping through my Bible and finding dozens of notes of encouragement from my loved ones.

In today’s passage, I am drawn to the idea that John 3:16 is the end destination of our faith in Christ. The prior verses explain how the Spirit is pushing us towards that destination. We are baptized but also grow into our faith, and I think the Spirit helps us grow by blessing us with places, people, events, and even possessions. Jesus describes being born of the spirit as a “wind” because you hear the sound but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. Likewise, these instruments of the Spirit move like the wind because you may recognize and appreciate them, but only upon reflection do you realize the crucial place they have in your faith. Sometimes my Study Bible starts to collect dust on the bookshelf. But when I do open it, its importance as an anchor in my faith rushes back to me.

The Holy Spirit connects and ties us to the promise outlined in John 3:16 through the power of people, places, experiences, and other things of this earth. I invite all of you to reflect on the things that have enriched your faith journey and continues to strengthen you today. Is it sitting in the pews or a place in nature where the veil between you and God is exceptionally thin? It is the particular hymn or verse that speaks to you most clearly to you or pulls at your heart? Maybe it is even thinking back to the person who taught you our faith’s most popular verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish buy may have eternal life.” Happy Monday!

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May God bless you this week,

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