

## "Duck"

Ever notice how peaceful and smooth ducks appear as they make their way around a lake? They glide, seemingly without effort. They have a webbed foot called a "palmate." A palmate is a foot that has three toes that are completely webbed for best propulsion in water. Ducks have palmate. And they need them, because as serene as ducks may appear on the surface of the water, just underneath, those little, webbed feet are paddling desperately with all their might. Such was Nicodemus, calm and smooth on the outside, but just beneath the surface of his life as a devout Pharisee, he paddled desperately in the dark of night, when his peers would not see him, to ask Jesus sincere questions about these wondrous works Jesus did in serving others. Nicodemus did not understand who Jesus really was and found himself baffled by Jesus' answer about how Nicodemus needed to be born again of the Holy Spirit. How many times do we find ourselves trying to look smooth and in control to others, even to ourselves, when the truth is that we are paddling furiously, desperate to cope and understand life and all its challenges. We will glide more easily through troubled waters, because we will surely hit troubled waters, using palmate (yes, I looked it up - the plural of "palmate" is "palmate;" now I have to ask the individual who coined this odd word - was it so difficult to add an "s" to the end?) designed to get us to where He wants us to go. We will glide more easily through the troubles of life born of the Spirit.

Read John 3:1 - 8 for the full account.