

WHAT IS REGENERATION or THE NEW BIRTH?

Text:

Titus 3:5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He [Jesus] saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit;

Regeneration, or the New Birth, is the injection of a new life into a dead spirit. Nicodemus had troubles here. Jesus taught him that, that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. He had little understanding of the latter.

John 3:1-10:

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, "Rabbi, we know that Thou art a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with Him."

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

⁴ Nicodemus saith unto Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.



⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”

The carnal nature we were born with is a real trouble maker. Just as it is the nature of a hog to wallow in the mud, likewise it is the nature of sinners to wallow in sin.

We will always be sinners until we are born of the Spirit of God. That that which is born of flesh is flesh and is called the Natural or Carnal Man.

We will always be sinners until we are born of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.



Until Paul was transformed on the Damascus Road, he was a religious devil, a murderer, a blasphemer, and full of hatred for Christ’s followers. When we were still enemies of God, we were reconciled unto Him by the death of His Son, Jesus. Our understanding of spiritual things was darkened and blinded, and we were without hope in the world.

God, — Who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us — while we were yet sinners sent Jesus to die for us. The Holy Spirit — in dealing with our unconverted heart — will convict us of sin; then He will put into our repentant heart the faith to believe in and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and redeem us. The right belief about and in Jesus is of utmost importance to produce this new life.

Ephesians 2:8-9:

⁸For by Grace are ye saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God:

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Only Jesus can produce and bestow this life.

John 3:36: He that believeth on the Son hath Everlasting Life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Jesus said:

John 10:10: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death; but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The injection of this New Life is a gift of God — you can't earn it, buy it, bargain for it, or cultivate it. When we become aware of the fact that there is no divine spark of life in us that just 'needs to be fanned', we will realize just how hopelessly dead we are in our trespasses and sins.

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How does He produce this life? **Our text calls for the washing of regeneration.** We need a bath, yes — a cleansing that no soap or detergent here on earth can do.

Jeremiah 2:22: "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before Me," saith the Lord God.

Next: Is the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5: Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

God's work by the Spirit is to change our nature in order to make us new, and to be obedient to love His Word. This is only possible when we are changed in our heart-nature; then we will not walk after the flesh but after the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:1-4:

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

² For the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the Law of sin and death.

³ For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.



It is so natural for us to sin, and in so doing we become servants to sin.

John 8:34: Jesus answered them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

Our human will has no power over sin.

Our human will has no power over sin. We can't cleanse ourself or change our nature. All our Will can do is:

- become willing to be at peace with God,
- become willing to stop fighting and making war against the Lord.

Our Will can humble itself down and receive the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, by free choice as our Saviour.

John 1:12-13:

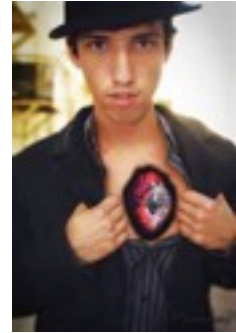
¹² But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Now, what does this mean?

The incoming of God's life into our life will renew our heart, restore it to fellowship with the Lord, and impart a New Nature into us. God says:

Ezekiel 18:31: A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.



Thus we become partakers of the Divine Nature having escaped the corruption which is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious Promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Colossians 2:6: As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:

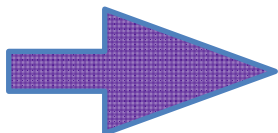
After you have tried to better yourself and lost hope — having attempted time and again without success — why not listen to your heart, as Paul did in:

Romans 7:24-25:

24 "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Need you marvel any longer that you must be born-again? Then come to Jesus now. He is the answer.



No one can duplicate the New Life of Christ within called Regeneration. There is no clever disguise that can make a dead man live. Only Jesus can make us a new creature.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

All creeds, religions, or denominations fall or stand by this. The best a man has is to improve his human nature which amounts to nothing more than putting on new wrappings over the old heart. Christ will meet your need and save you now. Just give your weary life over to Him, receive Him into your heart, and He will transform you right now.

There is no modification of the environment, no mental therapy, moral effort, or evolutionary process of civilization that can endow any sinful soul with life or the attributes of the New Nature. How are they then produced, do you ask? — By **repentance, faith, and confession.**

Repent, why? When our heart sees deep into what we really are, what wickedness we've really committed against God and our fellow mortals, our heart aches, grieves and wants a change of life. Then we will gladly call on the Name of The Lord for mercy, and will trust Him to save us. When we call, in trusting faith in Him, He will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

Here is a prayer you can pray to invite Him into your life

Dear God in Heaven,

I come to You and acknowledge that I am a sinner. I realize that my sins have separated me from You in this present world, and will continue to separate me from You for all eternity. I do not want to spend eternity apart from You.

I believe that You sent Jesus Christ, Your Only Begotten Son, to die on the Cross at Calvary for my sins in order that I might be reconciled to You. I accept the atoning work of Christ on the Cross, and accept Him right now as my Personal Savior. I ask You to forgive me for my sins, and to help me to turn from them so that I might live a holy and righteous life before You.



Thank you for hearing my prayer, for forgiving my sins, and for giving me a New Life in Christ.

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