

# Regeneration

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I Peter 1:3, 23

“Of Grace in Regeneration; We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.”

## I. The Meaning of Regeneration

- A. **It means to be born again** or born from above
  - 1. “*anagennesas hemas*” who begat; Peter is attesting to the fact of his and his readers being birthed by God. The sense is the same as the words of Christ in John 3.
  - 2. It means to become a child of God, John 3:3, 7; to enter into the kingdom of God.
- B. **It means a change of nature** or being given a new nature - II Cor. 5:17, Col. 3:10
  - 1. It is a quickening, a making alive of one who was once dead (Eph. 2:1, 5)
  - 2. It is a spiritual resurrection; I John 2:29, to a new life (doing righteousness)
  - 3. It is being given a hearing ear; John 10:27
  - 4. It is being given a seeing eye; John 3:3
  - 5. It is being given a new heart; II Timothy 2:25, to repent, to believe, to profess

## II. The Means of Regeneration

- A. **God regenerates according to his good pleasure**
  - 1. By his grace I Peter 1:3, I Timothy 1:14

2. By his mercy Eph. 2:4-5, I Timothy 1:13; John 1:13; I John 3:9; 5:1, 4
- B. God regenerates by his sovereign power**, John 3:8
1. Regeneration is placed beyond the ability of man in any form to bring about or to cause; John 1:13, James 1:18 (It is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit).
  2. This makes man passive in the work of regeneration Matthew 19:16-26
  3. This work is irresistible
  4. This work is instantaneous
  5. This work is a perfect work
  6. This work is permanent
  7. None can bring about life except God, none can give light except God, none can free from the darkness of depravity but God.
- C. God regenerates in the presence of his word**
1. He works “in connection with divine truth”
  2. God is able to work without means yet we see that God determines the means by which the end will come (Acts 13:48, examine the context)
    - a. Heb. 4:2; Psalm 19:7-8
    - b. With the word of truth – James 1:18, I Cor. 4:15, I Peter. 1:23; Luke 8:11, the seed needs good ground which is the creative work of the Holy Spirit.
  3. Men are called upon to preach the word; we shine the light, but until God removes the blindness, until man’s understanding is enlightened natural man can’t perceive (I Cor. 2:14)

### **III. The Men Regenerated**

**A. Were lost men**

1. *“The son of man came to save that which was lost”*
2. Man lost his holiness; he has lost his ability to spiritually discern, and to worship God.

## **B. Were dead men**

1. *“For as the father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the son quickeneth whom he will.”* John 5:21
2. The biblical fact of man’s total depravity demands regeneration be of divine origin

## **C. Were antagonistic men**

1. *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”* Col. 1:21; (Rom. 5:10, 8:7)
2. We were alienated from the *“life of God.”* Eph. 4:18; we walked contrary; our sins have separated us from God, Isa. 59:1.

## **D. Were unbelieving men**

1. *“for as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now.”* Rom. 11:30 (see Rom. 11:11 also).
2. Psalm 119:59, *“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.”* (Repentance & faith)

## **E. Were sinful men**

1. *“In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* Rom. 5:8, 19 (see also Rom. 6:18, 22)
2. Paul declared himself chief of sinners, I Tim. 1:15

# **IV. The Effects of Regeneration**

## **A. A change in nature** (it secures our voluntary obedience to the gospel, I John 2:29)

1. My appreciations change; my concepts change
  - a. I thank God, I look to God, and I have a new gratitude, Col. 3:1-3.
  - b. I see the goodness of God; I see the longsuffering of God, Rom. 2:4.
  - c. I see the glory of God and the I see it in the cross of Christ I Jn. 3:16
  - d. I want to glorify God – I see myself as a steward, I Cor. 4:1-2; I Pet. 4:10.
2. My desires change – love changes

- a. I no longer love darkness – John 3:19,
  - b. I set my affections on things above not on things of this earth Col. 3:1
  - c. I desire to live for him, “*I esteem all thy precepts*” “*I delight myself in thy statutes*”
  - d. I desire to be with God’s people – I John 3:14
3. My will changes, – made willing (fruit, evidence)
- a. I am willing to confess my sin and willing confess my faith, Psalm 110:3; Phil. 2:13
  - b. I am willing to submit to him and separate myself from the world, II Cor. 7:1, I Jn. 3:3
  - c. I am willing to follow him “*Lord what wilt thou have me to do?*”

## **B. A change in abilities**

1. “Its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.”
2. I learn to work for him; Good works, Eph. 2:10
3. I learn to discern from him; to learn spiritual things, I Cor. 2:14
4. I learn to trust and hope in him, Psa. 71:5, “*My hope is in the Lord, who gave himself for me, and paid the price for all my sins at Calvary.*” Jer. 17:7
5. I learn to suffer with him, Phil 4:12
6. I learn to be satisfied with him, Lk. 4:4
7. I learn to confide in him, casting all my care upon him because he cares for me, I Pet. 5:7; Psa. 55:22.