

Salvation 101

Lesson 5

Regeneration

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: The Bible tells us in Romans 8 that all whom God predestinates, them He also calls and them He calls He also justifies. Here a distinction is made between the general call of the gospel and the effectual calling of the Holy Spirit. This distinction is necessary because not every person who is called by the gospel is justified. Jesus stated that many are called (by the gospel) but few are chosen. This effectual calling is known as regeneration. Regeneration is an act of the Holy Spirit of God whereby He quickens, or makes alive, the individual who is spiritually dead. This quickening is compared in the Scriptures to the raising of Christ from the dead (Eph. 1:19-20). Because man is dead in sins, there is nothing that a person can do to be born again (John 1:13), it is based upon the Sovereign purpose of God.

Jesus described regeneration to Nicodemus as being “born again” or being “born of the Spirit.” There are many similarities between a spiritual birth and a physical birth. Just as in a physical birth there is a seed, a womb, and a conception; in a spiritual birth there is a seed (the word of God), a womb (the heart of man), and a conception or spiritual birth. This spiritual conception, known as regeneration, is the incomprehensible work of God without which there can be no giving of life. As we are faithful to sow the Word of God, we must recognize that apart from the regenerating act of God the call of the gospel will not be effectual. We are “*laborers together with God*” but He must “*give the increase.*”

In both physical and spiritual birth there is pain associated with them; both are the direct result of sin. The curse upon Eve (women) was that in sorrow she (they) would conceive. The pain in the new birth is the sorrowing over our sin against a holy God. In a physical birth there is extreme pain followed immediately by extreme joy. The same with a spiritual birth; there is great sorrow over sin, followed by a great joy over the forgiveness and comfort of the Holy Ghost.

It is also necessary for a proper understanding of the salvation experience to separate regeneration and conversion; though in the salvation experience they happen simultaneously. It is probably better to think of them happening on a vertical plane where God is acting and man is reacting; than on a horizontal plane where they happen chronologically. Physics teaches us that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Regeneration is where God acts to bring to life the spirit of man and conversion is the reaction of man where he repents and believes the gospel. Because man is spiritually dead, unless he is regenerated, he does not possess the capacity even to repent and believe the gospel.

In regeneration, God imparts His Divine nature to the individual (action), which causes them to hunger and thirst after righteousness (reaction). It takes a will that is at enmity against God and His Law and **imparts** a love for God and His Law by writing them upon his mind and heart. This righteousness is frequently called “imparted” or “practical righteousness” as opposed to the “imputed” or “positional righteousness” of Christ. Imparted righteousness is the implanting of a new nature that desires to be conformed to the image of God’s Son. This action of God leads to holiness of life as a result of continual repentance from sin and faith in Christ and His word.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Regeneration** -

Greek: (1080) **gennao** *ghen-nah'-o* -

(509) **anthen** *an'-o-then* -

(3824) **paliggenesia** *pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah* -

Note: born again means “to be born from above.” These words are in the passive voice which means the subject receives the action of the verb.

Quotation: “There is a sacred moment in the life of the chosen of God in which he is turned...In quickening the soul from its death in sin, there must be a moment in which the sinner is dead, and another in which he lives. The actual transition from death to life must be instantaneous, though the signs of it may be gradual. “A point of time, a moment’s space” works the inner transformation. Quick as a lightning flash is the implantation of the divine life. The dead man lives at once: the condemned is in an instant pardoned. A man must be either condemned or forgiven, and this is a great change. The divine life itself must either be there or not be there; and so there must be a true line over which the man passes, once for all, when he proceeds from darkness to light, from death into life.” C.H. Spurgeon

“Thou must be righteous and holy, before thou can live righteous and holy” William Gurnall

“Repentance is a change of the mind, and regeneration is a change of the man.” Thomas Adams

“Regeneration is a universal change of the whole man... it is as large in renewing as sin was in defacing.” Stephen Charnock

“Regeneration is that act of God by which the principle of the new life is implanted in man, and the governing disposition of the soul is made holy.” Louis Berkhof

“Adoption gives us the privilege of sons, regeneration the nature of sons. “ Stephen Charnock

“In the first creation, God made man after His own image. So in the second creation or regeneration, God doth create men after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, true holiness, and love.” Vavasor Powell

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith 1833

Article V The Blessings Of The Gospel

Article VII Grace in Regeneration

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689

Chapter 10: Of Effectual Calling - paragraphs 1-4

Chapter 20 Of the Gospel and the Extent of the Grace Thereof - paragraphs 1-4

Spurgeon’s Catechism

Questions: 29-31, 72

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is another term for regeneration?
2. What is the difference between the general call of the gospel and effectual calling?
3. According to Ephesians 1:19-20 what is regeneration compared to?
4. What role does the Word of God play in regeneration?
5. What are some similarities between physical and spiritual birth?
6. Why must a person be regenerated before they are converted (repent and believe the gospel)?
7. Why should we separate regeneration and conversion?
8. What can a man do to be born again?
9. What is the difference between imputed and imparted righteousness?
10. How long does it take for regeneration to happen?

Key Scriptures:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 In the Old Testament, the work of regeneration is explained and predicted to be the giving of a _____ and a _____.

Matthew 22:14 Those who are called in this verse are called not by the Holy Spirit, but by the gospel, and the explanation given for why they are not saved is that they were called but not _____.

John 1:13 This verse reveals that the cause of the new birth is not because of a _____ relationship to a particular race or family, nor because of a desire of the _____, nor because of a decision of the _____ of man, but the source of our new birth is _____ God.

John 3:3-8 In Jesus' famous conversation with Nicodemus, He explains the concept of the new birth to a very religious Jew. The Jews believed that their salvation was a result of being a child of Abraham (of blood). Jesus reveals to him that you must be _____ . That in this second birth you must be born of the _____ and that it is not being born again in the _____ . He explains the Sovereign pleasure of God in regenerating people is like the wind which man is unable to predict or control. All we can see is the effect that it makes.

John 5:21 Jesus is able to and does regenerate _____ .

John 6:44 The principles of effectual calling referred to in this verse are that no man _____ come to Christ except the Father _____ him and that _____ that the Father draws, He will _____ at the last day.

John 6:63 It is the _____ that _____ in the work of regeneration not the _____ .

Romans 2:28-29 A true Christian comes not from an outward religious practice such as circumcision (making them a Jew) but that it is a work in the _____ and in the _____ of man.

II Corinthians 5:17 When a person has been regenerated the Bible declares that they are now a new _____ .

Ephesians 2:1 Regeneration is a quickening of those who are spiritually _____ in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 4:24 The new man is _____ after His God in righteousness and true _____ .

Titus 3:5 Salvation did not come because of a work rather because of the _____ of regeneration and the _____ of the _____ .

James 1:18 We were born again by His _____ through the means of the _____ .

I Peter 1:23 The seed that God uses in the new birth is the _____ of _____ which is incorruptible.

I John 2:29 The way to identify whether a person has been born of Him is that he _____ .

I John 3:9 Every person that is _____ of _____ does not live in a lifestyle of sin. The reason that he cannot do so is that he has the nature of God.

I John 4:7-8 Those who have a love for their brethren reveal that they are _____ of _____ and that they know God. He that loveth not _____ God for God is love. If we have the nature of God we will naturally love those that He loves.

I John 5:1 Every one that loves the Father will love those that are _____ of Him.

I John 5:4 Those who are born of God are identified as ones who overcome the _____ by _____.

I John 5:18 We know that everyone that is _____ of _____ does not live a habitual lifestyle of sin; rather he is identified as one that _____ and is not dependent upon others to keep them from falling away.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

John 3

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: John 1:13

Personal Definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Regeneration -

Personal Confession: (*Study the confessions and write your confession in your own words*)

Effectual Calling -

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*) How can you tell if a person has been regenerated?

Extra Credit:

Ask at least one person (preferably several) who professes to be born again of their testimony of salvation.