

# Foundations II: Regeneration, Faith and Repentance

## Regeneration

John 3:3, “*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*”

J. C. Ryle on Regeneration, “Now, I say that on the face of the Bible, when fairly read, there stands out this grand doctrine, that each one of us must, between the cradle and grave—go through a spiritual change, a change of heart—or in other words be born again. And in the text you have heard, the Lord Jesus declares positively, without regeneration no man shall see the kingdom of God.”

### **Definition of Regeneration:**

Regeneration is the spiritual change wrought in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit in which his/her inherently sinful nature is changed so that he/she can respond to God in faith and live in accordance with His will. It extends to the whole nature of man, altering his governing disposition, illuminating his mind, freeing his will, and renewing his nature.

Titus 3:4–7

### **The Necessity of Regeneration**

1. Expressly asserted by the Bible John 3:3, 1 Corinthians 2:14
2. It follows from what the Bible teaches about the natural condition of man apart from Jesus. Ephesians 2:1–3

**Regeneration precedes Faith** Ephesians 2:4-5

### **Regeneration Is Totally a Work of God**

John 1:13, Ezek. 36:26–27

### **The Connection between Regeneration and Effectual Calling**

## From Regeneration to Faith and Repentance

"No sooner is the soul quickened (born again), than it at once discovers its lost estate, is horrified, looks for a refuge, and believing Christ to be a suitable one, flies to him and reposes in him." -C.H. Spurgeon  
“If God has revealed a plan of salvation for sinners, they must, in order to be saved, acquiesce in its provisions. By whatever name it may be called, the thing to be done, is to approve and accept of the terms of salvation presented in the gospel.” Charles Hodge  
Ephesians 2:4–9

**Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 85.** What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Mark 1:14–15

# **Faith**

## **Faith Defined**

**Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 86.** What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

John 3:16

1. Notitia. The content of faith
2. Assensus: The conviction that the content of our faith is true.
3. Fiducia: Personal trust and reliance.

## **Faith as a Gift**

Ephesians 2:8, *“By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

**Faith and Works** James 2:20

# **Repentance Unto Life**

## **Repentance Defined**

**Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 87.** What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Psalm 51:1–4

**Repentance as the Gift of God** Acts 11:18

## **The Elements of Repentance**

- a. An intellectual element. Romans 3:20
- b. An emotional element. Ps. 51:5,7,10
- c. A volitional element. Acts 2:37–38

**Fruits in Keeping with Repentance.** Matthew 3:7–8