

Selected readings from Morning and Evening: Daily Readings, By
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Reading 125

“*Ye must be born again.*” John 3:7

Regeneration is a subject which lies at the very basis of salvation, and we should be very diligent to take heed that we really are “born again,” for there are many who fancy they are, who are not. Be assured that the name of a Christian is not the nature of a Christian; and that being born in a Christian land, and being recognized as professing the Christian religion is of no avail whatever, unless there be something more added to it—the being “born again,” is a matter so *mysterious*, that human words cannot describe it. “The wind blows where it will, and though you hear the sound, you can’t tell from where it comes or where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” Nevertheless, it is a change which is *known and felt*: known by works of holiness, and felt by a gracious experience.

This great work is *supernatural*. It is not an operation which a man performs for himself: a new principle is infused, which works in the heart, renews the soul, and affects the entire man. It is not a change of my name, but a renewal of my nature, so that I am not the man I used to be, but a new man in Christ Jesus. To wash and dress a corpse is a far different thing from making it alive: man can do the one, God alone can do the other. If you have then, been “born again,” your acknowledgment will be, “O Lord Jesus, the everlasting Father, you are my spiritual Parent; unless your Spirit breathed into me the breath of a new, holy, and spiritual life, I would be to this day ‘dead in trespasses and sins.’ My heavenly life is wholly determined from you and by you. ‘My life is hidden with Christ in God.’ It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” May the Lord enable us to be well assured on this vital point, for to be unregenerate is to be unsaved, unpardoned, without God, and without hope.