

## Regeneration

When you were saved, you were:

- Justified
- Sanctified (positional, practical, perfect)
- Adopted into the family of God

Something else happened – you were regenerated.

Titus 3:1-5

**Tit 3:1** Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

**Tit 3:2** To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

**Tit 3:3** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

**Tit 3:4** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

**Tit 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the **washing of regeneration**, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

At the moment that you got saved a great change took place.

In v3 Paul describes what we used to be.

But now a great change has happened.

We are no longer what we used to be.

The moment that you realized that you were a sinner and believed in Christ, the Holy Spirit did a work in us and changed us.

He literally washed us and regenerated us.

He brings us to the new birth and makes us new. (renews us)

We are new creatures in Christ.

We don't enjoy the things we used to enjoy.

We don't think the way we used to think.

This change is described in different ways throughout the scripture:

**John 3:3** 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.

**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.

**Eph 2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath **quicken**ed us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

**2Co 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.

**Col 3:10** And have put on the new *man*, which is **renewed** in knowledge **after the image of him that created him**:

**Rom 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We call what is done in each of these verses REGENERATION.

Look back into Titus 3. Paul continues and shows us the other aspects of our salvation.

V7 Justification

V8 Sanctification as we set ourselves apart for God.

**Tit 3:7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Tit 3:8** *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

When you got saved you were regenerated.

- You have the same body.
- You have the same mind and intellect
- But there is a change in your spirit.
- Your spirit has been given life.

You have been born again.

Read John 3:1-7

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.

Jesus told him, "Ye must be born again."

If you are going to enter heaven you need a second birth.

The Greek word for "born again" is a word that we get our word "genes."

Jesus was saying, "You need to be gened again."

The genes transmit the hereditary traits and characteristics from you and your parents.

You were born the first time with physical genes.

Regeneration means that you are gened again.

You were born the second time with spiritual genes.

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It doesn't matter how good the natural man becomes, he still needs to be born again.

- He can improve himself
- He can get baptized
- He can take communion
- He can join the church
- He can reform himself

But he remains a natural man because that which was born was born of natural genes.

That is why he can't understand the things of God.

**1Co 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.

If he hasn't been born spiritually then he has no spiritual genes.

No amount of changing the outside can change the heart.

We had to be born from above to understand spiritual things.

We needed the genes of our Heavenly Father.

**Joh 1:11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

**Joh 1:12** 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:

According to these verses, at what point did you become a child of God?

John says it two ways: "as many as received him" and "to them that believe on his name."

These are two ways of saying the same thing.

When you believed on Christ you were born again.

Understanding that timing is important.

You believe on His name and become a child of God.

Calvinism teaches that God regenerates us and then that allows us to believe. This is how they teach irresistible grace – that you will be drawn to salvation whether you want it or not if you were one of those that God chose.

It is also the foundation of Lordship Salvation – the teaching that you must make God the Lord of your life (something that only a Christian can do) before you can believe.

Usually Lordship Salvation and Calvinism go hand in hand because they both require that you be regenerated before you can choose to believe.

Here is a quote from a Calvinist article:

“...it would be better to restrict the word “regeneration” to the instantaneous, *initial* work of God in which he imparts spiritual life to us. Then we can emphasize that we do not see regeneration itself but only the results of it in our lives, and that faith in Christ for salvation is the first result that we see. In fact, we can never know that we have been regenerated until we come to faith in Christ, for that is the outward evidence of this hidden, inward work of God. Once we do come to saving faith in Christ, we know that we have been born again.”

In other words, God saves you, regenerates you, and then that allows you to make the choice and believe. Then you see the salvation outwardly that God had already given you.

You were saved (without your choice), so that you could get saved (thinking it was by your choice).

You were born again so that you could believe. (Different from John 1:12)

Another word for that...foolishness.

**2Co 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.

When did we become a new creature? When we were in Christ.

When did that happen? When we believed.

This regeneration must take place for us to enter heaven.

Many preachers preach that everyone will get to heaven.

There are many reasons why this cannot be.

One reason is that sin would not be allowed in heaven and the lost man still has all of his sin.

Another reason is, the person who hasn't been born again, regenerated, would be miserable.

An unregenerate person wouldn't be happy in the presence of a God they don't love.

Think of it this way. On earth, put an unsaved person among a group of Christians and watch them squirm.

Imagine how uncomfortable they would be in the presence of God.

Jesus was right when He said, “Ye must be born again.”

You would have to be in order to enjoy heaven.

Regeneration changed you from:

- an enemy of God to a lover of God
- a child of the devil to a child of God
- being dead in trespasses and sins to being alive to live with Him eternally

What are the genes that cause the change?

**James 1:18** Of his own will **begat** he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

We are born again when we hear the Word of God and respond to it in faith.

It is the means by which we are born again.

**1Pe 1:23** Being **born** again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**1Co 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have **begotten** you through the gospel.

You got saved (were regenerated) because you heard and received the Word of God.  
The Holy Spirit took the Word and applied it to your heart.

As we attempt to tell others how they can be saved we must use the Word of God.

It isn't done by our arguing or reasoning, or by our personality, or our cleverness.  
We need to give our testimony, but just our testimony will not win a person to Christ.

People aren't regenerated by testimonies.

They are re-gened by the Word of God.

Your testimony may attract their attention but it is the Word of God that is quick and powerful and will cause them to be saved.

When you trusted Christ you were regenerated.

A whole new life began.

Inside, your spirit came to life – it was regenerated.

One moment you were lost. The next you were alive.

How foolish would we be to think that you could lose that salvation?

You were changed, transformed, regenerated.

This isn't something that you can just throw off and put back on.

Just as you were born physically once, you were born or the spirit once when you heard the Word and believed.