

## Twice Born:

### the Miracle of Regeneration

## Regeneration is not:

- Self-reformation
- The addition of a new element to a man
- The change of one or more faculties of the fallen nature
- The perfecting of the fallen nature

## Relationship w/ Effectual Calling

- Grudem: "as the gospel comes to us (general calling), God speaks through it to summon us to himself (effective calling) and to give us new spiritual life (regeneration) so that we are enabled to respond in faith. Effective calling is thus God the Father speaking powerfully to us, and regeneration is God the Father and God the Holy Spirit working powerfully in us, to make us alive."

## The Necessity of Regeneration

- We are blind (3:3).
- We are flesh (3:6).
- We are powerless (3:5).

## Some Definitions

- *To regenerate* means "to impart life."
- Millard Erickson: "the communication of divine life to the soul...as the impartation of a new nature...or heart...and the production of a new creation."
- Reymond: "it is the subconscious implanting of the principle of the new spiritual life in the soul, effecting an instantaneous change in the whole man, intellectually, emotionally, and morally, and enabling the elect sinner to respond in repentance and faith to the ... public proclamation directed to his conscious understanding and will."
- Grudem: "a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us."

## Biblical Illustrations

- Birth (John 3:1ff)
- Creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:10; 4:24)
- Resurrection (Eph. 2:1-6; Col. 2:13; cf. Rom. 4:17)
- Changed in every faculty:
  - A new mind that can understand the things of God (1 Cor. 2:16)
  - A new heart that can love God (Rom. 5:5)
  - A new will that longs to obey God (Rom. 6:1-13)

## The Characteristics of Regeneration

- A Divine Act
  - John 1:13 – who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
  - Eph. 2:5 – even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
  - Jam. 1:18 – In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
  - 1 Pet. 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
  - Cf. 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1; 5:4; 5:18 – born of God.

## The Characteristics of Regeneration

- A Divine Act
  - God regenerates through the instrument of His Word!
    - James 1:18 - In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
    - 1 Pet. 1:23 - for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

## The Characteristics of Regeneration

- A Divine Act
  - John 3:1ff
  - Ezek. 36:26-27
- An Inscrutable Act
- An Instantaneous Act

## The Effects or Results of Regeneration

- The defilement of our heart was cleansed.
  - Ezek. 36:25-26
  - John 3:5
  - Titus 3:5
- God enabled us to see and enter His kingdom by faith.
  - John 3:3
  - John 3:5

## The Effects or Results of Regeneration

- God enabled us to believe in Christ.
  - John 1:12-13
  - 1 John 5:1
- God enabled us to obey God and to avoid a life of sin.
  - 1 John 2:29
  - 1 John 3:9
  - 1 John 5:3-4
  - 1 John 5:18

## The Effects or Results of Regeneration

- God enabled us to love others.
  - 1 John 4:7
- We began to produce the character qualities that come with the Spirit.
  - Gal. 5:22-23

## And Can It Be?

“Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and error’s night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”

Charles Wesley