

14 Truths About Regeneration (John 20:31b)

- 8. Regeneration is a token of the coming age
- 9. Regeneration is needed because of spiritual death
- 10. Regeneration is absolutely necessary
- 11. Regeneration is acquired by exposure to God's Word
- 12. Regeneration is gained by faith
- 13. Regeneration is completely God's work
- 14. Regeneration is the purpose of John's Gospel

1

Matt. 19:28-And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on ^[k]His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel

Titus 3:5-He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Before the kingdom of God may be entered by following individual from this human sphere, there must be a God wrought metamorphosis in the form of a birth from above.

At least 85 New Testament passages aver that a Christian is a changed person by virtue of the fact that he has received the very life of God.

Ezek 36:24-28-For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I

will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

²⁶ Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸ You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Ezek. 37:1-14-The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out ^[a]by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. ³ He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord ^[b]GOD, You know.” ⁴ Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’” ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause ^[c]breath to enter you that you may come to life. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.’” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a ^[d]noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these

slain, that they come to life.”””¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.¹¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are ^[e]completely cut off.’¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.¹³ Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.¹⁴ I will put My ^[f]Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,” declares the LORD.””

John 3:10-Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

While regeneration is not an experience, it is the foundation of all Christian experience.

2

John 17:3-This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

It is one thing to know about God, but quite another thing to know God.

Gal. 4:6- Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

3

Gal. 6:15-For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new ^[h]creation

Eph. 4:24-and put on the new ^[a]self, which ^[b]in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

2 Cor. 5:17-Therefore if anyone is in Christ, ^[a]*he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

4

New life brings with it a new capacity. The person who before regeneration was dead spiritually and blind to spiritual truth now becomes alive to a new world of reality

Eph. 2:10-For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them

John 3:3-Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born ^[a]again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

1 Cor. 2:14-15-But ^[f]a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually ^[g]appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

As a blind man for the first time contemplates the beauties of color and perspective once sight is restored, so the newborn soul

contemplates new revelation of spiritual truth. For the first time he is able to understand the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

He is now able to enjoy the intimacies of fellowship with God and freedom in prayer.

As his life is under the control of the Holy Spirit, he is able to manifest the fruit of the Spirit, utterly foreign to the natural man. His whole being has new capacities for joy and sorrow, love, peace, guidance, and all the host of realities in the spiritual world.

5

The bestowal of eternal life cannot be revoked. It declares the unchangeable purpose of God to bring the regenerated person to glory. Never in the scripture do we find anyone regenerated a second time. Although Christians may lose much of the normal spiritual experience due to sin, and desperately need confession and restoration, the fact of regeneration does not change.

7

Without eradicating the old nature with its capacity and will for sin, the sin nature has within it the longing for God and His will that we could expect would ensue from eternal life... While the Scriptures are clear that a regenerated person can sin, and does sin, the lapse is traced to the sin nature... The state of sinless perfection can never be reached until the sin nature is cast out, and this is accomplished only through the death of the physical body or the transformation of the body without death at the rapture. Even the new nature, though never the origin of sin, does not have the ability sufficient to conquer the old nature.

The power for victory lies in the indwelling presence of God. The new nature provides a will to do the will of God, and the power of God provides the enablement to accomplish this end in spite of the in the sinfulness of the sin nature...

8

In the last analysis, the experience of this life are only antecedent to the larger experiences the regenerated person will have after deliverance from the presence and temptation of sin. Regeneration will have its ultimate display when the person regenerated is completely sanctified and glorified. Our present experiences, limited as they are by the presence of a sinful nature and sinful body, or only a partial portrayal of the glories of eternal life. Through the experiences of life, however, the fact of regeneration should be a constant source of hope and abiding confidence that "he who has begun a good work will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philip. 1:16).

Eph. 1:13-14-In ^[a]Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also ^[b]believed, you were sealed in ^[c]Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is ^[d]given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

9

Gen. 2:17- but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not ^[a]eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die

Eph. 2:1-And you ^[a]were dead ^[b]in your trespasses and sins

Rom. 6:13-and do not go on presenting ^[a]the members of your body to sin *as* ^[b]instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* ^[c]instruments of righteousness to God.

Eph. 2:5- even when we were dead ^[a]in our transgressions, made us alive together ^[b]with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

10

John 3:7-Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born ^[c]again.’

John 3:10-Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?”

In announcing these great truths about flesh and spirit, Christ did not address them to the lowest in the social order such as obviously need to be improved; he chose to speak these words to a ruler and teacher in Israel who is without doubt the very flower of Judaism.

11

James 1:18- In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be ^[a]a kind of first fruits ^[b]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.

Rom. 10:17-So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word ^[a]of Christ.

2 Tim. 3:15-and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Acts 4:12-And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

12

Thus without exception all that enters into salvation, including the gift of eternal life, depends only on the one human requirement of believing on the Savior.

As related to faith, the human will can act by means of efficacious Grace... In the new birth, of course, the human will is not opposed to regeneration and wills by divine grace to believe, but this in itself does not produce the new birth... It is not that the human will is ruled aside, nor does it waive the human responsibility to believe. It is rather that regeneration is wholly a work of God in a believing heart... While regeneration is often preceded by various antecedents such as the work of common grace and accompanying influences, these must be sharply distinguished from regeneration.

13

Gen. 1:12-The earth brought forth ^[n]vegetation, ^[o]plants yielding seed after ^[p]their kind, and trees bearing fruit ^[q]with seed in them, after ^[r]their kind; and God saw that it was good.

Gen. 1:25-God made the beasts of the earth after ^[ai]their kind, and the cattle after ^[aj]their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

John 3:5-6-Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Where would Nicodemus begin were he to attend the achievement of his own birth from above?

It is a smashing blow to all philosophies which hold that man has inherent capacities of saving himself. Regeneration is wholly of God. No possible human effort however noble can supply eternal life. The proper doctrine of regeneration gives to God all glory and power due His name, and at the same time it displays his abundant provision for a race dead in sin.

14

Constable-John's purpose was clearly evangelistic. His Gospel is an excellent portion of Scripture to give to an unbeliever. It is probably the most effective evangelistic tool available. Its impact on the reader is strongest when one reads it through at one sitting, which takes most people less than two hours. This document can also deepen and establish the faith of any believer, and John undoubtedly wrote what he did to accomplish that end as well.

Heb. 13:20-21-Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep ^[a]through the blood of the

eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, ²¹ equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.