

Regeneration

Reading: Titus 3:3-7 *“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

John 3:3-7 *“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*

Definition: The act or work of God whereby he imparts to the believing sinner **new life**, which is the very life that God possesses, that brings the individual into a living relationship with God.

The NT abounds with equivalent expressions that further describe the transforming work of regeneration.

- John 1:13 **“born...of God”** – a new beginning that is the exclusive work of God and that brings a person into the family of God
- John 3:3-7 **“born again”** – a new beginning that brings about a spiritual transformation from a position of death (separation from God) unto life (relationship with God)
- 2 Pet 1:4 **“partakers of the divine nature”** – new life that bears the character of the divine nature from which it comes and is the present possession of every believer in Christ
- Eph 2:10 **“his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus”** – new life through our union with Christ Jesus that is God’s special handiwork, his own masterpiece of design
- 2 Cor 5:17 **“a new creation”** – new life that is in stark contrast to the old sinful nature
- John 3:16 **“eternal life”** – a living relationship with God that can never be broken

It is **needed** because naturally we are all spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. *“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men all sinned.” Romans 5:12*

It is brought about by **receiving and believing** in Jesus Christ by faith for salvation. *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13*