

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
DOCTRINE OF SALVATION
PART 2-TERMINOLOGY
“REGENERATION”

Introduction

We have been looking at the terminology of Salvation and have thus far looked at **REPENTANCE** and **FAITH!** Real quickly here before we move on I want to touch on a related word—the word **CONVERSION.**

Although the word '**conversion**' and forms of it may be rare in the Bible, the idea is common enough. A person is **converted** when he turns from darkness to light, from Satan to God, from dead idols to the living Christ!

The Greek word translated "**conversion**" has reference to the twofold turning on the part of an individual that we have just finished looking at. It has to do with **repentance (a turning from)**, and it has to do with **faith (a turning to).**

*Psalm 19:7—"The law of the Lord is perfect, **converting** the soul."*

*Psalm 51:12-13—"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be **converted** unto thee."*

*Matthew 18:3—"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted**, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."*

*Acts 3:19—"Repent ye therefore, and be **converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"*

*Acts 15:3—"And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the **conversion** of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren."*

*James 5:20—"Let him know, that he which **converteth** the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."*

Now, let's look at another term related to **SALVATION** and define it!

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REGENERATION—Being “BORN AGAIN” (John 3:3) and REGENERATION (Titus 3:5) both speak of the same thing.

These both speak of the fact that the sinner has been made alive in his spirit that had previously been dead in trespasses and sin from the time of his physical birth.

I. THE DEFINITION OF REGENERATION.

Regeneration is the spiritual change wrought in man by the Holy Spirit, by which he becomes the possessor of a new life—Spiritual Life!

It is that process whereby God through a second birth—a Spiritual birth—imparts to the believing sinner a new nature!

John 1:12-13—"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: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God"

II. THE NECESSITY FOR REGENERATION.

It is necessary because of what happened in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. (**Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6**)

It is necessary because of the corruptness and depravity of human nature.

Jeremiah 13:23—"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (See also Romans 3:10-18; 7:18; 8:7; Galatians 5:19-21).

By nature all men are:

A. Dead To God. (Ephesians 2:1)

B. Children Of Wrath. (Ephesians 2:3)

C. Children Of Disobedience. (Ephesians 2:2)

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- D. **Cursed with Adam’s sin nature.**
(Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:47)

III. **THE MEANS OF REGENERATION.**

Three factors are vital for a sinner to experience redemption.

- A. **The Word of God.**
(Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23)
- B. **The Man of God.**
(Romans 10:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
- C. **The Spirit of God.**
(John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Titus 3:5)

These three factors should not be lightly passed over. They teach that no sinner has ever been saved since Adam apart from them. Some may deny the necessity of the second factor pointing out that people often came to Christ while alone, after reading a gospel tract. But just how was that tract written, printed, and distributed in the first place? Obviously saved human beings were involved. If the above is true, then it is not unreasonable to conclude that as the Holy Spirit looks for a human instruments to bring living souls into this world, he likewise seeks out human instruments to usher sinners into the kingdom of God.

IV. **THE FRUITS OF REGENERATION.**

(2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

- A. **A Born Again Person Does Not Practice Sin.**
(1 John 3:9; 5:18)
- B. **A Born Again Person Loves Others And Knows God.**
(1 John 4:7)
- C. **A Born Again Person Loves The Saviour.** *(1 John 5:1-2)*
- D. **A Born Again Person Overcomes The World.** *(1 John 5:4)*

REGENERATION...THE NEW BIRTH
DEFINITION FROM
THE AMG CONCISE BIBLE DICTIONARY

“Man, being a sinner, is spiritually dead, and unable to give himself spiritual life. He is cut off from God, with no hope of salvation through anything he might plan or do.

God, however, can save man from this hopeless condition by forgiving his sins, giving him new life and restoring him to a right relationship with himself.

*This experience is called **the new birth**, or **regeneration**, and is entirely the work of the Spirit of God within a person. It takes place when the person humbly submits himself to Jesus Christ and trusts him for forgiveness, salvation and life (John 1:12-13; 3:3-6; Eph 2:1,5; Titus 3:5).*

*To be **regenerated** means, in other words, to be **born anew**, to be **spiritually re-created**. This is not something man can do. It is entirely the work of the merciful and sovereign God (John 1:13; 3:5; Titus 3:3-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; cf. Ps 51:10; Ezek 11:19).*

Without it the sinner remains in his hopeless state and is incapable of experiencing spiritual life (John 3:5-6). Through it a person becomes a child of God and enters the kingdom of God (John 1:12-13; 3:3,5).

*The **regenerated** person is a **new person** (2 Cor 5:17; 1 Peter 2:2; cf. Gal 6:15). He has a **new life** inwardly, characterized by a renewed mind that governs all his thinking and attitudes (Rom 12:2; Eph 4:23-24; cf. Ezek 36:26-27; Jer 31:33).*

*He also has a **new life** outwardly, characterized by loving behavior towards others, hatred of sin and victory over the world's temptations (Col 3:10,12-13; 1 John 2:29; 4:7; 5:4,18; cf. 1 Cor 5:7-8).”*