

Introduction:

- Justification has to do with our standing with God.
 - Charged as, “Not guilty!”
 - Charged as, “Righteous!”
- Regeneration has to do with the inward change that happens when people come to Christ/or experience salvation.

I. What is Regeneration?

- A. Regeneration means: re-generation/to be born anew, born again.
1. “So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be **born again**.’” (John 3:7, NLT)
 2. “For you have been **born again**, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23, NLT)
 3. “he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a **new birth** and new life through the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5, NLT)
- B. From these scriptures it is apparent that we are speaking of a spiritual rebirth.
1. Through the Holy Spirit there is such a thing as a spiritual rebirth.
 - a) Ezk. 11:19; 36:26 “*I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them.*” See Jer 24:7
 - b) David in Ps 51:10 said, “*Create in me a clean heart...and put a right spirit within me.*”
 2. When the spirit of a man is made new the man is made new. He becomes a new being because it is not just your spirit that is being saved. It is the total man.
 - a) “*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
 - b) This person is a new creature! A new creation! This is the amazing wonder of regeneration!
- C. Regeneration is required if you desire and eternity with God. Jesus said it, “*You must be born again!*” See Jn 3:3,5.
1. We were spiritual dead with Christ.
 2. We suppressed the truth and lives and hearts became darker and harder.
 3. “*Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—....*” (Ephesians 2:1–2, NLT)
 4. The only hope we have in this human race is to be born again/re-generated through Christ Jesus!
- D. Regeneration is a work that occurs through the Holy Spirit. Since it is a spiritual rebirth that we are experiencing it must be of the Holy Spirit, from God Himself!
1. Just like the Spirit hovered over the dark waters, in creation, and brought forth light and life so in regeneration the Holy Spirit brings forth new life in those who believe.
 2. This is the greatest miracle we can experience in our life time. Ie. Kathryn Kuhlman, “I believe in miracle, I have seen a soul set free, Miraculous the change in one redeemed through Calvary!”

II. How Does Regeneration Happen?

- A. Through the sowing of the Word. Mark 4:3-9. Parable of the sower, hard, weeds, rocks, good soil.
1. 1 Peter 1:23, 25 “*But the word of the Lord remains forever.*” *And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.*” (1 Peter 1:25, NLT)
 2. That word must be continually preach until heard or received.
- B. We first need illumination in our sin darkened hearts. The entrance of your word brings light.
1. 2 Cor 4:4 The Gospel is hidden from the unbeliever. The darkness can only be overcome by illumination in the inner parts.
 2. Illumination must show a man how sinful he is. Ie. Acts 2:23 You crucified Jesus!
 3. Ones eyes must be open to the fact of just how sinful they are and how serious their eternal situation is before God. **FOR REGENERATION TO OCCUR A PERSON MUST KNOW THAT THEY ARE LOST/SEPARATED FROM GOD.**

4. Ps 51:4 David said, "Against you only have I sinned." God's words must illuminate our condition to us.
- C. Secondly, we must experience conviction. This is more than illumination of one's condition it is an act of the Holy Spirit in which a experience a clear sense of guilt before God.
 1. In Acts 2:37 the people after hearing Peter preach said, "What must we do to be saved?" They did not fight back or try to justify themselves. What must we do?
 2. The tragedy is that the heart of man has been hardened and it must be cut, pierced.
 3. Conviction is way more than just feeling remorse and misery. Judas felt that in Mt 27:4 but he did not repent.
 4. Conviction not only deepens the realization of our condition but it also brings about an internal change.
 - a) They were "cut to the heart" They were being circumcised in their hearts. It is not just a cutting into but also a cutting away of.
 - b) *"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."* (Deuteronomy 30:6, NKJV)
 - c) *"... And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people."* (Romans 2:29, NLT)
 - d) This circumcision of the heart is possible through faith in Jesus Christ!
 5. Therefore, when through conviction one realizes the heinousness of his spiritual condition, and is pierced in the heart, the miracle of the new birth/regeneration is close behind.
- D. Thirdly, we must repent! This is the moment of truth in the unbelievers life. That a person turns from the darkness to the light.
 1. The sinner who turns to God will be saved!! The person who hears the word will experience his awareness of sin and deep conviction. This is not to lead them into a place of condemnation but into the place of repentance that produces a re-generation in a man.
 - a) There must be an awareness of sin.
 - b) There must be conviction.
 - c) There must be repentance away from sin and a repentance to life. 2 Chron 6:36-39
 2. A turning to God that does not stem from awareness and conviction will be a superficial relationship. Repentance must affect our will...a movement away from sin and to God.
 - a) *"... Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."* (Acts 11:18, NKJV)
 - b) Repentance and forgiveness are closely related in the Gospel. *"It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent."* (Luke 24:47, NLT)
 3. Repentance is a turning from the old to the new. This act results in
- E. Fourth, Conversion. Repentance of itself carries the understanding of conversion/total alteration
 1. *"Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away."* (Acts 3:19, NLT) The word turn is what it says a turning to.
 2. *"They told them—much to everyone's joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted."* (Acts 15:3, NLT) Gentiles were turning to God.
 3. Romans 10:9-10 this conversion leads to a confession of faith that Jesus is Lord.

Conclusion:

- All of these (illumination, conviction, repentance, and conversion) all lead to the ...
- **The New Creation** which is regeneration.