

141119w Regeneration - Part 2

Introduction:

- When one is born again or re-generated they become a new creature/being.
“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)
- Last week we saw the process.
 - the word is sown in the heart.
 - The Holy Spirit brings conviction.
 - We must repent - not only turn away from sin but turn to God.
 - A turning away from sin and turning to God results in conversion!!!

I. A New Creation/New Being

- A. A changed heart!! “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26, NLT) God is speaking of a radical alteration of a man.
1. A man’s heart is cleansed. Mt 15:19; Titus 3:5;
 - a) Is 51:6-7 *Wash me and I will be whiter than snow.*
 - b) The slate is wiped clean and we get a fresh start.
 2. God’s law is inscribed on the heart of the new believer.
 - a) *“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”* (Jeremiah 31:33, NLT)
 - b) *“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”* (Hebrews 8:10, NLT)
 - c) This is one of the most beautiful and rewarding benefits of the new birth.
 3. A man’s heart is unified.
 - a) Ezk 11:19 I will give them one heart.
 - b) Jer 32:29 I will give them one heart and one way.
 - c) Ps 86:11 David prayed *“Unite my heart to fear thy name.”*
 - d) Dt 6:4 The Lord our God is one therefore you shall love him with all your heart.
- B. A mind that is renewed.
1. *“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.”* (Ephesians 4:22–23, NLT) The mind literally takes on a new attitude.
 2. *“But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord ...!”* (Jeremiah 9:24, NLT)
 3. Jer 31:34 They will all know me. This was the testimony of the apostles. They saw people get born again/re-generated and they suddenly had understanding of God. The mind that has once been darkened now flowed with life and light. 1 Cor 2:16 as Paul’s states, We have the mind of Christ.’
 4. A renewed mind means that we no longer look from man’s perspective but from God’s! We live primarily for Him and not for ourselves.
- C. A Freed Will.
1. Titus 3:3 Paul speaks of us as slaves to sin.
 2. Romand 6:6 Paul describes our former condition as that as slaves to sin.
 3. Titus 3:5 says were saved by the washing away of our sins and forgiveness.

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4. The washing of regeneration takes away our sin and frees us! 1 Cor 6:11
5. There is no way humanly possible to break from the sin of the past through the washing away of our sin and forgiveness through Christ. "*For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,*" (Colossians 1:13, NLT) Christ has not only broken the power of sin but of Satan over our lives! We have a new Master!
6. Christ won the battle of the will! And we are in Him and He in us! See Ps 40:8 messianic psalm, and Heb 10:5,7.

II. A New Nature

A. Again, 2 Cor 5:17 "*...a new life has begun.*"

1. When a man is born again/re-generated the nature or the character of God becomes his new operating system! It is no longer normal sin. Ie. When you do you get an 'error' message on your screen.
2. Sin becomes unnatural to the born again person. It is out of character with the nature of God. 1 John 3:9

B. The nature of God is expressed in us in three ways.

1. Holiness

a) "Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy." (Ephesians 4:24, NLT)

b) The born again person has a new desire to walk holy and upright before God. We are now, as Paul says, "*Slaves to righteousness.*" Ro 6:17,18

c) This does not mean that we will not sin. John actually covers that in chapter 1 and gives us an Advocate to represent us when we do sin, Jesus Christ.

2. Love

a) Love is a major characteristic of this new man!

b) 2 Cor 5:14 which is right before the New Man scripture, states: "*the love of Christ controls us.*"

c) "*We love each other because he loved us first.*" (1 John 4:19, NLT)

d) "*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*" (1 John 4:7–8, NLT)

e) This love positions us to fulfill the two great commandment: Love God and love each other. A new heart, renewed mind, new empowerment from a new Master really soars to new heights in love.

3. Truth

a) A major transformation in the born again person is the Truth is in Him. "*And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" (John 8:32, NLT)

b) We are filled with the Spirit of Truth. "*He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.*" (John 14:17, NLT)

c) To be a born again child of God is to be a person who radiates Truth.

III. A New Life

A born again person is a person with a new heart, a new nature and a New Life!

A. Think on these words, "*...And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*" (Romans 6:4, NLT) Christ is the gateway to a new life.

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- B. To be born again is to pass from death to life! Eph 2:1 states we have been made alive in Christ.
- C. There is aliveness to God! Ro 6:11 “*Consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God.*”
 - 1. There is a new awareness of God’s presence. Before our minds were darkened.
 - 2. In Christ we are truly human alive to God, filled with purpose.
- D. There is a sense of “real happiness” and it is from the inside out. It is not based on externals but and eternal internal condition in Christ.
 - 1. Jn 10:10 there is abundant life in Christ Jesus.
 - 2. There is real fellowship with other believers.
 - 3. “*I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*” (John 15:11, NLT)
 - 4. Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord again I say rejoice. vs 11 I have learned to be content.
- E. Finally, there is eternal life.
 - 1. Following Jesus words to Nicodemus we saw last week, “You must be born again.” We are given 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so the that whoever believes will not perish but have life everlasting.
 - 2. To be born again is to enter by faith into eternal life.

Conclusion:

- “*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.” (1 Peter 1:3–4, NLT)*