

REGENERATION

- I. Biblical references to "regeneration"
 - A. Old Testament
 1. No direct references to "regeneration" in OT
 2. Prophetic allusions - eschatological expectations
 - a. national restoration - Isa. 52:8; Lam. 5:21; Acts 1:6
 - b. individual restoration - Ps.51:12; Lam. 1:16; Ezek. 37:1-14
 3. Question of whether old covenant believers were individually, spiritually regenerated?
 - B. New Testament
 1. Greek words *gennao anothen* – *gennao*=to bring into being, to be born; *anothen*=from above
John 3:3 - "unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
John 3:7 - "You must be born from above"
 2. Greek word *palingenesia* – *palin*=again; *gennao*=to bring into being, to be born
Matt. 19:28 - "in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne..."
Titus 3:5 - "He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit"
 3. Greek word *anagennao* – *ana*=in the midst of; *gennao*=to bring into being, to be born
I Pet. 1:3 - "God...has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
I Pet. 1:23 - "you have been born again...through the living and abiding word of God."
 - C. English word "regeneration" from Latin *regeneratus* – *re*=again; *generatus*=to bring into being
- II. Relation of regeneration to other Biblical concepts
 - A. Conversion - Acts 3:19; 26:18; I Thess. 1:9
 - B. Spiritual exchange - Acts 26:18; I Cor. 2:12; I Jn. 4:6
 - C. Spiritual union - I Cor. 6:17
 - D. Reconciliation - Rom. 5:10,11
 - E. Know God - Jn. 17:3; Gal. 4:9; I Jn. 2:3,13,14; 4:7
 - F. Indwelling deity
 1. God the Father - Jn. 14:23; I Cor. 3:16; I Jn. 4:12,15,16
 2. Jesus Christ - Rom. 8:9; II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Col. 1:27
 3. Holy Spirit - I Cor. 6:19; Gal. 4:6; II Tim. 1:14; James 4:5
 - G. Partake of divine nature - II Pet. 1:4
 - H. Divine, eternal life - Jn. 3:16; 10:10; 14:6; 20:31; Rom. 6:4,23; 8:10; II Cor. 3:6; Eph. 2:1; Col. 3:4; II Pet. 1:3; I Jn. 3:14; 5:12
 - I. Initial personal experience of salvation - Eph. 2:8,9
 - J. Spiritual identification/identity
 1. Christians – "Christ-ones" - Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16
 2. New creature - II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15
 3. New man - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
 - K. Character investiture
 1. Made righteous - Rom. 5:19; 8:10; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 4:24
 2. Made holy - Eph. 1:4; Col. 1:22; 3:12
 3. Made perfect - Phil. 3:15; Heb. 10:14; 12:23

- L. Lordship of Christ - Rom. 5:21; 10:9; I Cor. 6:17; 8:6
- M. Divine empowering, enabling - Acts 1:8; I Cor. 1:24; II Cor. 12:9; Eph. 3:16,20; Col. 1:29
- N. Baptism - I Cor. 12:13; Not "baptismal regeneration"
- O. Cosmic restoration, reconciliation or regeneration - Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:18-23; I Cor. 15:27; Col. 1:20

III. An alliterative review of "regeneration"

- A. Reason for regeneration
 1. Man did not need new rules, system, education, religion
 2. Man needed to "be brought into being again" with God in the man
- B. Resurrection pre-requisite of regeneration
 1. Resurrection of Christ evidenced life out of death - Jn. 12:24
 2. Resurrection-life of Jesus made available to man - I Pet. 1:3
- C. Reality of regeneration
 1. Not "turning over new leaf" or "getting religion"
 2. Divine life is invested in man - Jn. 10:10; 14:6; I Jn 5:12
- D. Revelation of regeneration
 1. Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1-7) could not see his spiritual need (I Cor. 2:14)
 2. Spirit of God reveals our need - Jn. 12:32; 16:7-11
- E. Receipt of regeneration
 1. Not merely by mental assent to historical or theological data
 2. Received by faith – our receptivity of God's activity - Jn. 1:12; 3:16
- F. Resource of regeneration
 1. Cannot give birth to ourselves; must be progenitor
 2. God is source of life (Jn. 5:26); we receive His life (Jn. 1:13)
- G. Region of regeneration
 1. Fallen man is spiritually dead - Eph. 2:1,5
 2. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" - Jn. 3:6
- H. Repository of regeneration
 1. God the Father dwells in the Christian - Jn. 14:23; I Jn. 4:15
 2. Jesus Christ dwells in Christian - II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27
 3. Holy Spirit dwells in Christian - II Tim. 1:14; James 4:5
- I. Renewal of regeneration
 1. "renewing of the Holy Spirit" - Titus 3:5
 2. "All things become new," new creature - II Cor. 5:17
 3. "new man" - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
- J. Relationship of regeneration
 1. Personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 2. Relationship with all Christians in Body of Christ - Heb. 10:24,25
- K. Retention of regeneration
 1. God will not renege on His promised faithfulness
 2. "Spirit bears witness with our spirit" - Rom. 8:16
- L. Release of regeneration
 1. Regeneration not an end in itself; a crisis with view to process
 2. Regeneration is the initiation of sanctification
- M. Results of regeneration
 1. Character of Christ by the fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22,23
 2. Ministry of Christ by the gifts of the Spirit - Rom. 12; I Cor. 12