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What You Need To Know About Regeneration

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REGENERATION

The word **regeneration** appears but twice in the entire Bible (Titus 3:5; Matt. 19:28), but these two amazing passages cover literally everything from human beings to Mother Nature herself. If interested, read on.

The definition of regeneration—It is that process whereby God, through a second birth, imparts to the believing sinner a new nature. *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (John 3:3).

The necessity for regeneration—It is necessary because of the corruptness of human nature. *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil”* (Jer. 13:23).

- By nature all men are dead to God—Eph. 2:2.
- By nature all men are children of wrath—Eph. 2:3.
- By nature all men are sons of disobedience—Eph. 2:2.
- By nature all men are cursed with Adam’s sin nature—Rom. 5:12.
- The extent of regeneration

What is the extent and what are the results of regeneration?

- The extent of regeneration
- Individual—*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the HolyGhost”* (Titus 3:5).
- Universal—Universal here refers to the redemption of nature itself. This will transpire during the Millennium. *“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”* (Matt. 19:28).
- Bottom Line: The Bible declares this wonderful new birth now experienced by repenting sinners will someday be experienced by Mother Nature herself!

What are the three vital factors which must be present if a sinner is to experience regeneration?

- The Word of God—John 3:5; Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23.
- The man of God—*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”* (Rom. 10:13-15).

- The Spirit of God—John 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 2:14. (See also 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, however (the man of God), 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 instrument (mothers) to bring living souls into this world, he likewise seeks out human instruments (soul winners) to usher sinners into the kingdom of God.

What are some biblical, personal, examples of regeneration?

Among the many conversions in the Bible the one which perhaps most vividly demonstrates the life-changing process effected by regeneration is that of Manasseh in the Old Testament.

1. Manasseh, the godless king (2 Kings 21:2-16; 2 Chron. 33:2-10).
 He rebuilt the pagan high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed.
 He erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole.
 He bowed down to the starry hosts and worshipped them.
 He rebuilt pagan altars in the temple of God.
 He sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the Valley of Hinnom, outside Jerusalem.
 He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft.
 He consulted mediums and spiritists.
 He did more evil than the original Canaanites in the land had done.
 He filled Jerusalem from end to end with the blood of innocent people who were slaughtered at his command.
 Tradition says he ordered Isaiah to be sawn asunder (Heb. 11:37).
 He continued to do all these things in spite of repeated warnings from God.
 Jeremiah the prophet later referred to Manasseh as a symbol of evil (Jer. 15:4).
2. Manasseh, the regenerated king.
 The record of his conversion
 The prison—God punished Manasseh for all this by allowing the Assyrians to take him prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bind him with bronze shackles, and take him to Babylon (2 Chron. 33:11).
 The prayer—In his distress, Manasseh turned to God and begged for forgiveness (2 Chron. 33:12). God heard his prayer, saved him, and brought him back to Jerusalem (2 Chron. 33:13, 18-19).
 The results of his conversion
 He got rid of the foreign gods and altars, removing them from the temple (2 Chron. 33:15). He urged all Judah to serve God (2 Chron. 33:16).

Surely among the many songs we'll no doubt sing in heaven, the following might well become the favorite (apart of course from *Amazing Grace*) of Manasseh!

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

1. What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart.

Refrain:

Since Jesus came into my heart,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart.

2. I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And my sins which were many are all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart.
3. I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure,
Since Jesus came into my heart.
4. There's a light in the valley of death now for me,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And the gates of the City beyond I can see,
Since Jesus came into my heart.
5. I shall go there to dwell in that City I know,
Since Jesus came into my heart;
And I'm happy, so happy as onward I go,
Since Jesus came into my heart.