

Regeneration

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead—1 Peter 1:3*

1. We are born without God's life

Ephesians 4:18

Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

2. God wants to give us His eternal life through Jesus Christ

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

3. We get God's life when we receive (believe into) Jesus Christ

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name.

4. Through regeneration we receive God's life in our human spirit

John 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

5. To be regenerated, a person simply needs to repent to God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Such a desire can be expressed through an honest and simple prayer to God.

Acts 20:21

Solemnly testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance unto God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

Example:

*Father God, thank You for creating me.
Forgive me for my sins.
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord Jesus, I receive You as my Savior and life.
Come into me! Fill me with Your life!
Lord Jesus, I give myself to You for Your purpose.*

Regeneration

Regeneration is the center of the experience of salvation, because God's central purpose in saving us is that we may have His life. It is for this that He has forgiven our sins and cleansed us; it is for this that He has sanctified and justified us; it is for this that He has set us free. He has accomplished all these things for one purpose—to regenerate us. Regeneration, therefore, is the central part of God's salvation.¹

We are born without God's life

When Adam was created, he obtained only created life; he did not at that time obtain God's uncreated life. Likewise, when we were born of our parents, we obtained only the natural, created human life. That birth gave us an entrance into the human kingdom ... But for us to enter the kingdom of God, we must have another birth from another source. We must be born of God. By our first birth we were born into the kingdom of darkness, but by our second birth we are transferred into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Col. 1:13).²

God wants to give us His eternal life through Christ Jesus

God's purpose is that we may obtain His own uncreated life and be transformed by this life into His image to be like Him. Even if our human life had not been corrupted by the fall of man in Genesis 3, we would still need to be regenerated. In Genesis 1 and 2, Adam was without sin, yet he was void of God's life. Thus, God placed him before the tree of life that he might receive the life of God and be regenerated. God's purpose in creating man is not merely to obtain a sinless man, but even more one who has God's own life.³

We get God's life when we receive (believe into) Jesus Christ

Believing in the Lord is equal to receiving Him. When I speak of receiving the Lord Jesus, you may say that you have never done that. However, I want to ask you a question: Have you not believed in the Lord Jesus? When you heard His name,

did you not believe in it? You have received the authority to become a child of God. What is this authority? It is Christ Himself as life to you. Christ as life is simply the Spirit of sonship, and this Spirit of sonship makes you God's child.⁴

Through regeneration we receive God's life into our human spirit

According to the Bible, to be regenerated is to be born of the Spirit (John 3:3-6). Before regeneration our spirit was dead. "And you, though dead in your offenses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). But at the time we believed, God's Spirit came into us and mingled with our spirit (1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:16). Thus, our spirit obtained God's life and was made alive. Whereas our parents gave us our natural birth, God's Spirit has given us our spiritual birth.⁵

To be regenerated: repent, believe, and confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord

To repent is to have a change of mind with regret for the past and a turn for the future.

- On the negative side, to repent before God is not only to repent of sins and wrongdoings but also to repent of the world and its corruption, which usurp and corrupt people whom God created for Himself, and to repent of our God-forsaking life in the past.
- On the positive side, it is to turn to God in every way and in everything for the fulfillment of His purpose in creating man. It is a "repentance unto God," and is to "repent and turn to God" (Acts 20:21; 26:20).

To believe in Christ is to receive Him into us (John 1:12) that we may be organically united with Him. Such a faith in Christ (Gal. 3:22) is given to us by God through our hearing of the word of the truth of the gospel (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 1:13). This faith brings us into all the blessings of the gospel (Gal. 3:14). Hence, it is precious to us (2 Pet. 1:1). Such a precious faith must be preceded by repentance.⁶

Key Verses

- Ephesians 4:18* Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- John 3:16* For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
- John 1:12* But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name.
- John 3:6* That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- Acts 20:21* Solemnly testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance unto God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

Question 1

What is the difference between a person who is regenerated and a person who is not regenerated?

Assignment 1

Write down the names of three persons you know who need to be regenerated and pray for them.

Assignment 2

Practice leading someone in a simple prayer to receive God's life.

Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Ephesians 4:18, Genesis 1:26	John 3:15-16	John 3:3, 6	John 1:12-13	1 Peter 1:3, 23	Acts 2:21, 20:21	1 John 5:12-13

Weekly Memorization Verses

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.