

JOHN 3:1-8, IS 55:6-7, JOHN 1:13

REGENERATION
CONVERSION

GOSPEL DEFINED

Everyone loves babies. There is something unique about seeing new life and first steps and God's handiwork all in a tiny little package. The noises they make, their determination to eat, their movements, and even their clutch to their mom capture stares and sighs from even the most rugged around us. Birth is a very interesting picture that God uses to describe what happens when He gives life to dead sinners. It's called being born again, and the gospel defined says that for those that are dead in their sin running hard away from Him, God can and does make us alive to respond to Him. That is regeneration and conversion.

GOD GIVES LIFE TO DEAD MEN.

REGENERATION - God miraculously imparts spiritual _____ to the dead sinner.

Regeneration is exclusively _____ unseen miraculous work.

Regeneration is receiving a new _____. Coming alive. Being ____ again.

Regeneration is _____ with ongoing _____.

MEN MUST TURN FROM SIN TO GOD.

CONVERSION - Man _____ responds to the gospel call in faith & repentance.

Conversion is an understood, whole-hearted _____ in Jesus Christ. **FAITH**

Conversion is an informed, sorrowful _____ from sin. **REPENTANCE**

Conversion is in the _____, _____, and _____.

MEN ARE COMPLETELY CHANGED.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

Have you been born again? Is there evidence of the new birth in your life? Do you remember a specific time when regeneration occurred in your life? Can you describe how you knew that something had happened?

What do you think about the fact that your regeneration was totally a work of God, and that you contributed nothing to it? How does it make you feel toward yourself? How does it make you feel toward God? By way of analogy, how do you feel about the fact that when you were born physically you had no choice in the matter?

Are there areas where the results of regeneration are not very clearly seen in your own life? Do you think it is possible for a person to be regenerated and then stagnate spiritually so that there is little or no growth? What circumstances might a person live in that would lead to such spiritual stagnation and lack of growth (if that is possible), even though the person was truly born again? To what degree does the kind of church one attends, the teaching one receives, the kind of Christian fellowship one has, and the regularity of one's personal time of Bible reading and prayer, affect one's own spiritual life and growth?

Did this chapter help you think of faith in Christ in more personal terms? If so, how might that increase your own level of faith? Do you think that it might be easier for young children than for adults to think of trust in Christ as trust in a real person who is alive today? Why or why not? What does this tell you about the way Christian parents should teach their children about Jesus? What qualities in a personal relationship encourage trust? How can you apply this to living your life before God?

Have faith and repentance remained a continuing part of your Christian life, or have those attitudes of heart grown somewhat weak in your life? What has been the result in your Christian life?

In terms of human relationships, do you trust a person more when you do not know that person very well or after you have come to know him or her quite well (assuming that the person is essentially a trustworthy and reliable person)? What does that fact tell you about how your trust in God might increase? What things might you do during the day to come to know God better, and to come to know Jesus and the Holy Spirit better?