

Regeneration

The natural man being dead in his trespasses and sins,¹ without understanding,² blind to spiritual truth,³ blinded by Satan and the world as well,⁴ has neither the power nor will to understand and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.⁵ Jesus further emphasized this inability of the natural man to come to Him on his own accord without the work of God within him when he says “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”⁶ and “No one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by my Father”.⁷

Scripture teaches that regeneration is wholly a work of God that he does in his elect⁸, and that it neither occurs through the will of man nor is it caused by any human effort or merits.⁹ God takes the heart of stone out of the sinner and puts a new heart and spirit within him.¹⁰

It's Effects

Regeneration is an instantaneous, drastic and permanent transformation in which a sinner is re-created into newness of life.¹¹ Regeneration brings about a radical change in the whole man, intellectually, emotionally and morally¹², thus enabling the elect sinner to respond in faith and repentance towards Christ.¹³ He is also enabled to love others, particularly fellow believers¹⁴, practice righteousness¹⁵, and turn away from evil.¹⁶

¹ Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13

² 1 Corinthians 2:14

³ Matthew 13:15

⁴ 2 Corinthians 4:4

⁵ John 3:3-7; Romans 8:7

⁶ John 6:44

⁷ John 6:65

⁸ John 1:12-13; John 6:44, 65; Acts 16:14; Titus 3:5; James 1:18

⁹ John 1:12-13; Titus 3:3-7

¹⁰ Ezekiel 36:26

¹¹ John 5:21, 24; Ephesians 2:1-5

¹² 1 John 5:20; Psalm 42

¹³ John 1:12-13; 1 John 5:1

¹⁴ 1 John 4:7; 5:1

¹⁵ 1 John 2:29

¹⁶ 1 John 3:9; 5:18