

An Exposition on Regeneration or Being Born Again Christian. By Nick Bibile

Joh 3:3 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.

This is a vital subject as this is the basis of salvation. Yet there is so much confusion on this doctrine. When I was in the Philippines as a missionary, some Roman Catholics asked me, are you one of those preaches born again religion? They told before we did not have these born again religion, since lately they preach this new doctrine. I told them this is not a new doctrine but the old doctrine, the true doctrine and it is not of man but came from the lips of our Lord Jesus, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

For us to understand better let me give a simple illustration. Suppose there is a law passed in the United States of America, unless you are born in the United States, you cannot enter to the any Government position, which means to be a senator, congressman, governor or any federal job. If you are born in the USA you will have privileges getting a federal employment. Then comes a Chinese man, who really desire a federal job, we will say his name is Chang and he will say, I will change my name to an American name, then he change his name from Chang to Kennedy. He will say, here I have an American name, I am not Chang anymore I am Kennedy. Still he is refused at the application, as he is not a born American as the law is absolute and cannot be changed. This illustration will apply to many who are hearing this message and you will say, I am not a Hindu, Buddhist or a Muslim, I am a Christian and as a Christian I can enter to heaven when I die. Well, my friend the name Christian and to say that you are born in America, a Christian land with the Christian religion will not qualify you to go to heaven.

As we continue in this illustration, the Chinese man will say, I am going to change my face to an American, I have the name Kennedy and now I will have a plastic surgery on my face, which I will look just like an American. When he applied for the federal job, he was

rejected again as the law required to be US born to get a federal Job. In the same way there are many of you not only call yourself as a Christian but looks like a Christian as you attend Church on Sundays and say a prayer. But that does not mean that you are truly born again.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We will continue in our illustration. Now the Chinese man will say, I changed my name to Kennedy, I changed my face and I look real American, now I will learn the language and manners so good that I will have the true American accent and everyone will know that I am an American. When he applied for the federal job, still he was rejected as he looks just like an American and talks like one yet he is not born in America. The law is unless you are born of the United States you will not be accepted to a Federal Job. On application there are many of you who look like Christians and even talk like Christians. You are a member of a church, baptized, take communion, a deacon in the church, you look all Christian, just like the Chinese looks just like American including his face and accent, yet in his heart he is a Chinese in the same way many will look like Christians but the heart is still of the old nature. There is an outward change but the inward is still the same. You look so near but yet so far, you look like a cleaned outside but inside like a dead mans bones.

Many are longing to come to United States to be an American Citizen; to say I am an American and to have the American passport is a great privilege. Look at the spiritual side of this; many are saying I am a Christian as they think the name Christian would take them to heaven. No, my friend it is Jesus Christ who said, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Some may have a flood of tears of sorrow but not true regeneration.

Ge 27:38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

Ge 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

1. There are some who will seek God daily and delight to know his ways yet they are hypocrites not truly born again.

Isa 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. (Read Isa 58:2-7)

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible. The body may decay but the seed remains forever as it is incorruptible and the true Christian will never be lost. He cannot continue in sin.

1Jo 3:9 whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

How do you know that you are born again?

Some believe that the priest sprinkled some water at birth and the baby is regenerated, or was baptized as an adult and the person is regenerated. Some say, they made a decision in coming forward to an altar call and they are regenerated. . Regenerate means to be born again. It is the second birth. There is a big contrast between the first birth and the second birth.

The first birth is from our natural sinful parents and in their likeness or image. The second birth is of God and in his image. The first birth is of the corruptible and the second birth if of the incorruptible seed. In

the first birth we are born sinners and slaves to sin, the children of wrath who loves the pleasures of sin. In the second birth we become holy, hate sin and there will be a true change.

We were all born sinners. In regeneration there is a change. The change is of nature, sinners are converted to saints. This is a supernatural real change of the whole man. This real change happens by hearing the word of God and by the word of God. The word of God is called the incorruptible seed. There is power in the word of God that can change the nature of a sinner to a saint in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Regeneration is expressed by being quickened. Previously we were dead in Christ while we live in this body, morally dead, dead to the word of God. There was a metamorphous as the God infused to us the spiritual life and suddenly we are raised from death of sin to life of grace, passing from death to life, just like God breathed into Adam he became a living soul and we became alive to God in regeneration.

Regeneration is of God.

Ac 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Who opened the heart of Lydia? Did Lydia opened by herself? No it was God alone. Salvation is of grace alone.

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

All three of the Godhead is involved in regeneration.

God the Father.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Regeneration is like in the Creation, God created the heavens and the earth, then in verse two says, the earth was without form, and void and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Verse three says. Then God said, let there be light and there was light. In regeneration light came God the Father as he is called the fountain of light in James 1:17, 18.

God the Son.

Joh 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Joh 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

God the Holy Spirit.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

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

Holy Spirit is the author of regeneration. "Water" is meant, in a figurative and metaphorical sense, the grace of God.

Eze 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

By the grace of God given in regeneration we hear the word of God, God infuse light to us and the grace of the Spirit is meant by water, which cleanse and purify, which has to do with the blood of Christ, the washing of regeneration. The spirit quickens and gives life.

Regeneration is a real change of nature.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Man had an understanding of God but it was darkened because of sin, he had a will but it was contrary to the will of God. In regeneration there is a new substance created and new qualities are infused. Once the new qualities are infused there is no darkness but there is light and light will bring righteousness.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Regeneration is a supernatural change.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

For us to go to heaven our nature needs to be changed. In regeneration our nature is changed and we become partakers of his divine nature.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Only a supernatural change can be partakers of his divine nature. Regeneration is solely by God, we who are dead in sins are made alive unto God and changing into the image of Christ.

Regeneration is a change into the likeness of God.

Our father was the devil before as we went after the lusts of the world and our flesh. Before we bear the image of the devil. Now there is a change into the likeness that is to the image of God. All that generates will generates alike, what I mean is the child bears the image of the parent. The ones that are born of God will bear God's image.

Regeneration is a not a partly change but a whole change.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Note not some things become new but all things become new. Original sin infected not a part of man but the whole of man. In regeneration it effects the whole of our heart, soul and mind. The man gets a new brain as he will think differently, his attitude will change, behavior will change, the one who had a short temper will

be long suffering, he gets a new tongue, his conversation will change, the back biter will not back bite any more, the one who gossips will not gossip any more. The waters of the spirit of God runs through the whole body and purify and makes him fruitful, the old garment is removed and there is a new garment in Christ as there is a change of heart and life.

Regeneration renews every part yet not perfectly renewed. No body is fully grown up as a Christian, just like infants we have all the parts of a man but yet do not have a perfect growth. The sanctification is gradual.

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

In regeneration although the light of heaven has come down to our soul there is still some darkness of sin in us as we are still in this flesh our old enemy.

Php 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

When we die then we will have a glorious body like Jesus and we will be all perfect, right now there is a growth in each one of us, there has to be a change and the more we learn and take the word of God to our heart the more we will change.

Knowledge of God.

The instrumental cause of regeneration, is the word of God. regenerate persons are said to be "born again by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Pet. 1:23), and again, "of his own will begat he us with the word of truth" (James 1:18), "though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ", says the apostle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:15),

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

There are a lot of people who will hear the word of God, how is that some understand the gospel and truly repent and get converted with a real change in their lives while others too hear the word of God and no effect? As we see in Ephesians 5, in regeneration the light will come to our mind and the true believing sinner will truly understand, the night is over the morning has come with bright sunshine to the soul.

First thing that happens to him is that there is a desire to grow in God, which means, there will be knowledge of God.

Ps 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

As a deer pants after the water so my soul pants after thee O God.
(Ps 42:1)

Ps 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

Lu 1:76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.

Ac 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Ro 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

This knowledge is not a prideful knowledge but the more we learn of him the more we get humbled.

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