

Triune Man – Man’s Spirit/Holy Spirit - Part II

Is there a difference between Conversion and Regeneration?

The Greek word for **Conversion** is *Phōtismos*... It is the breaking in of God’s light on the new heart, which responds spontaneously to the wonder of God’s forgiveness and the joy of His sonship.

If we look at it from the perspective of the New Birth, we see that **Conversion** is repenting, so that God can take out the old heart (spirit) and replacing it with a new one (*Ezek 36*) - **Regeneration** can be understood as what happens in the new heart - becoming the new person and adjusting to the new heart.

What is the Spirit? It is that “hidden” part that can know truth and wisdom. Both truth and wisdom are spiritual principles that cannot be understood by the carnal man, nor defined by the natural mind.

The **spirit** is that section of a man that no animal can sense and no computer will ever simulate. It is the part of the human that **knows right from wrong, good from bad, holiness from evil**. This is the part of us that is dead before we come to Jesus Christ for salvation. But when the Holy Spirit comes into our spirit, He makes our spirit alive.

The writer of Proverbs tells us that "**the spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord**" (**20.27**). During the time of regeneration the Holy Spirit comes into man's spirit and quickens it as though **kindling a lamp**.

Spiritual conversion happens when we accept Christ as our Savior. It is NOT the same as **transformation** by the Holy Spirit.

Many Christians in the church treat **conversion** to Christ and **regeneration** as one and the same experience. They are used as interchangeable terms, but although the two events are closely related, there is a clear distinction between them: One can be converted and not regenerated, but no one can be regenerated without being converted.

Regeneration - “re gene” is not the initial act of renewal when one is first converted to Christ, but extends to the resultant process throughout the entirety of the Christian walk. **It is a continuing work of the Holy Spirit renewing and transforming the lives of Christians as they surrender themselves to the Lordship of Christ and the authority of His word after their conversion.**

Regeneration involves the complete transformation of a Christian's moral nature - a complete change of heart, which expresses the change from the person they were to the person they become in Christ. The literal meaning of regeneration is **being born again**.

1. Regeneration is the term used for this spiritual change in the heart by the power of the Holy Spirit sent forth from Christ’s throne

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2. It is absolutely necessary that regeneration takes place in order for a man to be released from his fallen and depraved state to the Kingdom of God
3. Regeneration is the catalyst that allows the Christian to interact with his new heart and His creator
4. It is the beginning step of an eternal walk with God

John 3:5-7 “Jesus answered, *“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.*”

The Lord Jesus spoke about to Nicodemus is the new birth of the spirit. NOTE: **New birth is something which happens entirely within the spirit.**

One can believe and accept Christ in their life and spirit becomes one with His Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit’s **transformation** can’t really take place until that person surrenders completely and center their life on Him.

Transformation by the Holy Spirit: Begins the suffering to get us to the place He wants us to be. He takes the mess we’ve made of our life and puts it right again, but not without a some suffering and struggle along the way. To accept His discipline we have to become teachable once again, “Conforming to the image of Christ” (Romans 8:29), through (1) Bible study, (2) prayer and (3) discipleship (mentors, sermons, fellowship).

Why do people that experience the new birth... not experience the abundance of a New Life?

Let’s use an expensive Cadillac, Lexus, BMW or Mercedes. Here, Brother James or Sister Mary would love to drive one of the cars mentioned above, but is not going to buy one because he/she doesn’t want the car bad enough to be willing to pay for it. He/she does want it, but would rather drive the pinto or chevete—because it hasn’t failed them yet and they don’t want to make the necessary sacrifice it would take to drive a car like that. By the way, isn’t it going to cost them over \$700 a month for the payment, maintenance is too expensive, and their insurance would definitely increase.

Many of us are just like Brother James and Sister Mary, we want the best things in life, but don’t want to pay the price to have them. We say, Lord, I really love you and want everything that you have for me in life, but...

- **Not at the cost of you telling me how to live my life.**
- **Not at the price of me giving up the things that really please my flesh.**
- **Not at the price of me not hanging out with my worldly friends or co-workers.**