The Doctrine of Regeneration

Outline

I. Definition and Description

A. Regeneration takes place at the moment of salvation when the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit in the believer in order that they may receive the imputation of eternal life enabling the believer to live with God forever.

B. It is 1 of the 40 things that the believer receives at salvation.

C. Regeneration is #4 on the list.

D. Thus far we have studied: Efficacious Grace, the Sealing of God the Holy Spirit and our Eternal Inheritance.

E. Regeneration is our spiritual birth.

F. It is a theological word for being born-again.

G. Every person born into this world that has human life is born spiritually dead.

H. Every baby that is born into this world is physically alive but spiritually dead.

I. Every baby that is born into this world receives the imputation of Adam’s original sin in the garden making them spiritually dead.

J. When Adam sinned, the entire human race sinned (Rom. 5:12).

K. God imputed Adam’s sin to every person born into the world in order that He might show grace and mercy to everyone (Rom. 11:32).

L. So that when a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ when they hear the Gospel communicated to them, God creates a human spirit in them in order that they may become spiritually alive.

M. When you become born-again or regenerated, you have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life.

N. Our human spirit enables us to understand the things of God (1 Cor. 2:10-14).

O. unbelievers can’t understand the things of God because they don’t have this human spirit.

P. Only the believer in fellowship with God can understand the things of God.

Q. When we are born-again we also receive the imputation of eternal life.

R. Eternal life enables the believer to live with God forever.

S. Eternal life has no beginning and no end and is the life of God.

T. So when we become born-again, we have the life of God which enables us to live with Him forever and ever.

U. No one can have a relationship with God without being born-again or regenerated.

V. Regeneration is a part of God’s grace policy directed toward us.

W. Grace means that we don’t earn or deserve to be born again.

X. It is a gift from God.

Y. We can’t take credit for the fact that we have been born again since it is entirely the work of the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit.

Z. Regeneration or being born again is our entrance into the Plan of God and a fantastic life full of blessing.

II. Vocabulary

A. Omnipotence: God is all-powerful.

B. Human Spirit: Creating by God the Holy Spirit which enables us to understand the things of God.

C. Eternal Life: The life of God having no beginning and no end.

D. Imputation: Crediting something to someone’s account.
E. **Spiritual Death**: The total inability to have a relationship with God because of no human spirit and no eternal life.

F. **Gospel**: God’s message to the spiritually dead unbeliever inviting them to believe on His Son for eternal life.

G. **God the Holy Spirit**: The 3rd Person of the Trinity Who is responsible for Regeneration.

H. **Grace**: God does all the work and we receive the benefits of His work.

III. Documentation

A. John 1:12-13, “But as many as received Him (Faith alone in Christ alone), to them He (God) gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (His Person), who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh (old sin nature), nor of the will of man, but of God.”

B. John 3:1-8, “Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Him by night, and said to Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), ‘Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (Acceptance of the Gospel message) and the Spirit (God the Holy Spirit in Common Grace making the Gospel understandable and then making the person’s faith effective for salvation in Efficacious Grace), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh (old sin nature) is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (human spirit). Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

C. Titus 3:5, “He (God the Holy Spirit) saved us, not on the basis of deeds (human works) which we have done in (human power) righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

D. 1 Peter 1:3, “Worthy of praise and glorification is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His great mercy (grace in action) has caused us to be born again to a living confidence through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

E. 1 Peter 1:23, “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable (the old sin nature passed down from your human father) but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.”

F. 1 John 5:1, “Whoever believes that Jesus (emphasizing His humanity) is the Christ (the Messiah, the Savior of the world) is born of God.”

IV. 1 of 7 Salvation Ministries of God the Holy Spirit

A. **Efficacious Grace**: Makes faith in Jesus Christ effective for salvation (2 Cor. 6:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9).

B. **Regeneration**: Creates a human spirit for the purpose of the imputation of eternal life (John 3:1-16; Titus 3:5).

C. **Baptism of the Spirit**: Places every believer in union with Jesus Christ (John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).

D. **Indwelling of God the Holy Spirit**: Creates a temple for the indwelling of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16).

E. **Filling of the Spirit**: God the Holy Spirit controls the soul of the believer and is the means of executing the Protocol Plan of God (Eph. 5:18).

F. **Sealing of the Spirit**: God the Holy Spirit puts His stamp on the believer to guarantee their salvation (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30).

G. **Distribution of Spiritual Gifts**: Gives every believer a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

V. God the Holy Spirit

A. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit creates our human spirit in regeneration.

B. **We cannot** be born again without the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit.

C. God the Holy Spirit’s role in man’s salvation:
1. **Common Grace**: God the Holy Spirit makes the Gospel message understandable in order that the spiritually dead unbeliever can make a decision to believe in Christ for salvation or reject Him for eternal condemnation (John 16:7-11; 1 Cor. 2:14).

2. **Call of God**: God invites the spiritually dead unbeliever to believe in His Son Jesus Christ for salvation (Matt. 11:28; John 6:37, 44; 7:37).

3. **Efficacious Grace**: The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit makes the person’s faith in Christ effective for salvation (2 Cor. 6:2; Eph. 2:8-9).


D. We would **never** be born again and saved without the work of God the Holy Spirit.

E. He is involved in **every** step of our salvation.

F. Regeneration or being born again is **entirely** the work of God the Holy Spirit.

VI. Imputation

A. Eternal life is the life of God, and has no beginning and no end.

B. The imputation of eternal life is a **real** imputation and all imputations of life are real imputations.

C. A real imputation has a home or target.

D. The human spirit that God the Holy Spirit created at the moment of faith in Christ is the home or target for the imputation of eternal life.

E. God the Holy Spirit creates a **human spirit** at the moment of salvation.

F. Just as God prepared the soul as the target or home for human life, so also He prepares the human spirit as the target or home for eternal life.

G. Both, the soul and the human spirit were created by an act of God.

H. Both, the soul and the human spirit cannot be destroyed.

I. The imputation of human life to the soul is unchangeable and forever.

J. The imputation of eternal life to the human spirit is also unchangeable and forever.

K. Both of these imputations are permanent.

L. God cannot undo what He Himself has done.

M. No life, whether human or eternal, can ever be separated from the home or target to which it is imputed.

N. There are 2 requirements must be met if we are to have an eternal relationship with God, and both are imputed at the moment of salvation:

1. We must have His righteousness.

2. We must have His life.

O. Ever since we believed in Christ, we possess 2 kinds of life.

P. We will live forever with God because we have His life, eternal life.

Q. Without eternal life we would not have the capacity for blessing in eternity.

R. Eternal life is God's life and is an attribute of His Divine Essence.

S. Eternal life guarantees:

1. We will live with God forever.

2. We will receive a resurrection body.

T. Eternal life is like a treasure chest.

U. There are blessings for time in this treasure chest.

V. God gave us eternal life so that we can withdraw from the treasure chest of blessings in time.

W. Eternal life was imputed to us so that we can enjoy blessings.

X. We receive these blessings by growing to spiritual maturity through positive volition to Bible Doctrine.

Y. Romans 5:17, "For *if by the transgression of the one (Adam's original sin), the (spiritual) death ruled through that one (Adam-and it did), much more (a fortiori principle) they who receive in life this surplus from the grace of God (the blessings of time to the spiritually mature believer) and the gift of the righteousness of God (imputed at salvation), much more they shall rule through the One, Jesus Christ."

VII. Eternal Life
A. At the moment of salvation, God the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit in the believer for the imputation of eternal life which we call *regeneration* or being born-again.

B. Eternal life is *imputed* to the human spirit at salvation.

C. At the moment of personal faith in Jesus Christ, the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit in order that the justice of God the Father can impute eternal life to the human spirit.

D. The *human spirit* is where the believer stores metabolized doctrine or doctrine which they have believed.

E. Eternal life is *imputed* to the human spirit at salvation.

F. Eternal life is like a *treasure chest* because it stores riches for you.

G. The doctrine that you have in your human spirit is doctrine that is *ready* for application or ready to be used in your life.

H. *Only* believers receive a human spirit.

I. The believer now has a body, soul and human spirit, whereas the unbeliever only has a body and a soul.

J. The only way to receive a human spirit is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

K. The only way to receive eternal life is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

L. It enables the believer to live with God forever and ever.

**VIII. New Christ Nature**

A. At the moment of salvation, God the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit in the believer (John 3:36b; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12).

B. This makes the believer trichotomous, body, soul and spirit.

C. The human spirit is created for the imputation of eternal life by God the Father.

D. Eternal life is the life of God which has no beginning and no end.

E. The believer becomes born a 2nd time as a result of this act of God.

F. At physical birth, we are born dichotomous, body and soul.

G. We are born physically alive but spiritually dead (1 Cor. 2:14).

H. We are under condemnation at physical birth because the justice of God imputed Adam’s original sin to our genetically formed old sin nature.

I. This imputation makes us candidates for the grace of God.

J. Grace is the policy of God’s justice for both cursing and blessing mankind.

K. We are cursed at physical birth because of the imputation of Adam’s original sin, yet, we are blessed because of the imputation of divine righteousness and eternal life at the moment of salvation.

L. Regeneration makes us spiritually alive with the ability to understand spiritual phenomena.

M. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit is totally responsible for Regeneration.

N. There is no human power involved.

O. Regeneration gives us the life of God which has no beginning and no end.

P. Regeneration is the New Birth.

Q. It makes us spiritual beings.

R. The New Birth makes us a New Man or New Spiritual Species.

S. We cannot have a relationship with God without being regenerated by the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit.

T. Regeneration makes us partakers of the divine nature, the life of Christ Himself (2 Pet. 1:4).

U. The divine nature is synonymous with the New Man, New Creation, New Spiritual Species.