

Luke 10:20

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but **rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.** – Jesus Christ

HOW I KNOW I AM BORN AGAIN

Part Three / Wednesday, December 7, 2016

REGENERATION

Today is historic in American history and we must take a moment to acknowledge this tragic time. Shortly before 8 a.m., on that Sunday morning, 75 years ago today, Pearl Harbor came under savage and unprovoked attack by the nation of Japan. Led by Commander Mitsuo Fochida, a swarm of aircraft from aircraft carriers in the Pacific attacked “Battleship Row,” where seven U.S. warships were anchored in the bay. At that moment, not an American gun had yet opened fire nor had an American aircraft taken off. The absolute surprise by the Japanese, where the bursting of bombs was followed by the tearing chatter of cannon-fire from diving Zero fighters, eliminated any possibility of an effective fighter defense. Five of the Battleships, *West Virginia, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma and California*, were ripped open by torpedo hits in the first few minutes. Hundreds of our service personnel were murdered in this “dastardly attack” (in the words of then President Franklin Roosevelt). The event brought the United States into World War II against not only the Japanese, but Germany and Italy (who entered the fray within days). Allied with Britain, France, Russia and others, the “Grand Alliance” would bring an end to the lunacies of insane Axis leaders and their followers. Over fifty million people would die either in the War or because of it. 75 years have passed. God forgive us if we forget!

1 So far, in our study, we have concerned ourselves with CONVERSION and
2 JUSTIFICATION.

3

4 Conversion - Mankind calls upon God to turn him around and change his life. It begins
5 with genuine repentance.

6 Justification - is the reversal of God’s attitude toward the sinner because of the sinner’s
7 new relationship with Christ. It is JUST-AS-IF-I’D-NEVER-SINNED at all.

8

1 Now we come to REGENERATION. This is the communication of divine life to the
2 soul, the impartation of a new nature or heart.

3 I. THE NECESSITY OF REGENERATION

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5 Salvation is so much more than making a vow, weeping, penance or “making a decision.”
6 Scripture repeatedly declares that a man must be REGENERATED before he can see
7 God. THERE MUST BE A SUPERNATURAL INFUSION OF DIVINE LIFE
8 WITHIN A PERSON.

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- 10 ▶ Without holiness no man shall see God (Hebrews 12:14 *Follow peace with all*
11 *men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*) Yet humanity is
12 by nature depraved and guilty of actual transgression against God.
 - 13 ▶ This moral change can be brought about only by an act of God. He regenerates
14 the heart. This is called “the new birth.” John 1:12 *But as many as received*
15 *him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe*
16 *on his name:*

17
18 John 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.

19
20 Conclusion we must come to: Only the divine impartation of Christ’s life can produce
21 that holy nature within sinners that makes fellowship with God possible. For example:
22 There is such a thing as the growth of a child; however, there is no such thing as growing
23 into a child. There has to be a BIRTH!

24 II. HOW IS SUCH A THING AS REGENERATION POSSIBLE?

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- 27 ▶ It is the will of God. James 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of*
28 *truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

29
30 God wants your nature to be changed. He wants you to have the divine life of
31 Christ Jesus within you.

- 32
- 33 ▶ The crucifixion of Christ is the means by which the miracle of your regeneration is
34 achieved. John 3:14-15 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,*
35 *even so must the Son of man be lifted up: [15] That whosoever believeth in him*
36 *should not perish, but have eternal life.*
- 37

1 Numbers 21:4-9

2 *And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of*
3 *Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. [5] And the*
4 *people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of*
5 *Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our*
6 *soul loatheth this light bread. [6] And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and*
7 *they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. [7] Therefore the people came to*
8 *Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee;*
9 *pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the*
10 *people. [8] And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a*
11 *pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it,*
12 *shall live. [9] And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to*
13 *pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*
14

This is one of the most frightening passages in the Old Testament. I have on several occasions driven across that pass, well aware of a creature called a carpet viper (*echis coleratus*). It is able to sink quickly and hide itself in the sand with a shuffling movement, leaving only the nostrils and eyes showing. Its bite can be fatal to humans.

15 The bitten Israelites who looked upon the brass serpent on the pole lived. There is a
16 fascinating side bar to this story. The Israelites called that metal creature NEHUSHTAN
17 and many actually worshiped the thing for nearly one-thousand years until King Hezekiah
18 abolished it: 2 Kings 18:4 ***He removed the high places, and brake the images, and***
19 ***cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for***
20 ***unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it***
21 ***Nehushtan.***
22

23 Strange how some will pursue “a form of godliness” yet “deny the power thereof.” Even
24 today millions are more interested in statues and idols than they are the very real and
25 living God.

- 26
- 27 ▶ Regeneration is also predicated on our firm belief in the resurrection of Jesus. 1
28 Peter 1:3 ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which***
29 ***according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by***
30 ***the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***
31
 - 32 ▶ Regeneration is also brought about by the Word of God. Ephes. 5:26 ***That he***
33 ***might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,***

1 Nothing will assist in your spiritual regeneration as will the Word of God.

- 2
- 3 ▶ God uses ministers of the Word, teaching and preaching, to bring about
4 regeneration. 1 Cor. 4:15 *For though ye have ten thousand instructors in*
5 *Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you*
6 *through the gospel.* This is why it is essential that preachers proclaim THE
7 WORD and not politics or self-help.
 - 8
 - 9 ▶ Regeneration comes through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 *Not by works of*
10 *righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by*
11 *the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

12 EVIDENCES OF A REGENERATED LIFE

13 There are tell-tale ways in which you can examine your regenerated spiritual life.

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15 1. A person born of God overcomes temptation. 1 John 3:9 *Whosoever is born of*
16 *God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he*
17 *is born of God.* 1 John 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:*
18 *and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.* 1 John 5:18 *We*
19 *know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth*
20 *himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

21

22 2. A regenerated person habitually loves all other brothers and sisters in Christ – and
23 others as well. 1 John 4:20 **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a**
24 **liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God**
25 **whom he hath not seen?**

26

27 3. A regenerated person sees the lost world as God does. 2 Cor. 5:14 *For the love*
28 *of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all*
29 *dead:*

30

31 A truly regenerated person loves missions and evangelism and is fervently obedient to
32 Chris's Great Commission: Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the*
33 *world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power,*
34 *after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in*
35 *Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

36

37 How can a person claim to love God and yet be willfully disobedient to His commands,
38 His direction to us? Yet many people - and churches - will completely ignore any
39 obedience to this explicit direction.

1 THE CONSEQUENCES OF A REGENERATED LIFE

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3 1. Union with Christ at the new birth means nothing can separate you from the love of
4 God - except your own will.

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6 Romans 8:38-39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor*
7 *principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor*
8 *depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which*
9 *is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

10
11 When God created us, He gave us free will (volition). He does not override our will.
12 Even after all these decades of being a born again man, and a half century in ministry, if I
13 wanted to alienate myself from God He would not stop me. "Why would you do that?"
14 you might ask. I would not. Rest assured I would not! But sadly there are people who
15 do. The Bible calls them "apostates." By an act of their own will, they demand that
16 God leaves them alone. But now....knowing I would never do such a thing, I can rest on
17 the scripture above (lines 6-9) that assure me that nothing can separate me from God's
18 mercy, love, forgiveness and salvation.

19
20 2. Regeneration and my union with Christ will produce fruitfulness in your life. You
21 will be affective for His glory.

22
23 John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the*
24 *same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

25
26 What is this "fruit" that will come from my life? For that answer, we turn again in the
27 Word to Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,*
28 *gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

29
30 These nine gifts could be summarized by this phrase: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.
31 This fruit does not come from our own goodness, but rather from the life of Christ within
32 us. In a vine, the branches depend upon the trunk for life, and the vine needs the
33 branches to bear its fruit. Jesus told His disciples that He had come into the world to
34 show the world what the Father is like. He said that when He went away He would send
35 the Holy Spirit to be with them and help them. The Holy Spirit would reveal Jesus to
36 them. As Jesus took a human body to reveal the Father to the world, so the eternal Spirit
37 dwells within the believer to reveal Christ to the world. The Apostle Paul wrote to the
38 believers in Corinth, Greece, 1 Cor. 6:19-20 *What? know ye not that your body is the*
39 *temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your*
40 *own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in*

1 *your spirit, which are God's.*

2

3 The fruit most expected of us by our Lord is the Christlike character - a revealing through
4 us that shows what Jesus is truly like. It is the outward expression of the holy nature of
5 God in the believer. It is actually the development of the life of Christ in the Christian.

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9 So far we have taken a look at conversion, justification and regeneration. Next week:
10 SANCTIFICATION.

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