

The Means of Salvation (Titus 3:5-6)

The natural man is a blunt-minded, hard-hearted, perverted-willed, carnal-minded, passionate-filled, malicious, envious, hating sinner in bondage who is spiritually dead, and unwilling to come to God (v.3).

But God, out of his kindness, love towards mankind, and mercy, appeared, saving (and offering salvation) to all who trust in Him.

“Salvation” in Scripture refers to:

- Our Past: Justification (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Our Present: Sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:18)
- Our Future: Glorification (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

1. The sinner has been washed and regenerated (washing of regeneration)

Washing (washed): The Greek means to wash a whole person (John 13:10-11). This imagery points to a Roman citizen washing his entire body at the public baths.

- The sinner, who has been forgiven, has been washed completely of his sins (justification); he is considered clean and righteous in God’s sight.
- Sanctification follows justification and affirms regeneration.
- Evidence of being “washed” is a change of affections and desires from the old man (in Adam), to the new man (in Christ).

Regeneration: The Greek is from two words: “again” and “beginning.” It literally means “again born” or “born again.”

- It refers to someone who has come into existence a second time, and with this new birth comes new principles and dispositions.
- The one who was dead in his trespasses (Ephesians 2:1) is now alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:5) as a brand-new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Regeneration is by the Spirit of God alone (John 3:5). The sinner must be born again (John 3:3) in order to enter heaven.
- Nothing good dwells in him naturally (Romans 7:18). His mind and flesh are naturally hostile toward God and cannot please God (Romans 8:7-9).
- The natural man does not accept the things of the God, for they are foolishness to him. He cannot understand them (1 Corinthians 2:14).
- It is a work of God’s mercy and grace by which a believer becomes a new creature in Christ.

- Regeneration is marked by:
 - Entry into God's kingdom (John 3:5)
 - A new holiness of life (1 John 3:9, 5:18)
 - A love for other people (1 John 4:7, 5:2)
 - Victory over sinful patterns (Romans 6:12-14; 1 John 5:4)
- Regeneration is also marked by a changed will, an enlightened mind and a renewed nature.
- It is more than just reformation, or "turning over a new leaf." Reforming is inadequate to save; the old person must be destroyed and the new one created.
- Regeneration occurs instantly, and only one time in a believer's life. While the new man is created instantly, the new birth takes time to reach the whole of the new man (Romans 7:16-23).

2. The sinner has been and is being renewed by the Holy Spirit

Renewed (Renewing): The Greek means to become new and different with the implication of becoming superior.

- The work of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God, restores man to the divine image which was marred after the Fall.
- This "renewing" is both:
 - A synonym (another way) of describing regeneration
 - A description of a Christian's life-long wrestling to fight against sin, and grow in holiness and sanctification

Holy Spirit:

- Is more than a force or an influence: He is a person and the source of this new birth. He never departs from the message of Jesus and will not go beyond it; the Father gave the Spirit in response to the prayer of Jesus (John 14:16). The Father sends the Spirit in the name of Jesus (John 14:26). The Spirit Himself is sent from Jesus (John 16:7) and the Father (John 15:26).
- He is also referred to as the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7).
- He has been poured out on us richly which refers to:
 - Pentecost (Acts 2:17-21, 33) and the moment of regeneration
 - Even beyond regeneration, the Spirit has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)

All of this is possible only through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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