

Doctrine of Regeneration – Part One

“We may define regeneration as follows: *Regeneration is a secret act of God in which He imparts new spiritual life to us.* This is sometimes called 'being born again' (using language from John 3:3-8)” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 699).

John 1:12-13; 3:3-8

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 Corinthians 5:17

Titus 3:4-6

James 1:18

1 Peter 1:3, 22-23

As Michael Horton aptly observes:

Scripture indicates that we “have been born again ... through the living and abiding word of God” (1Pe 1:23). “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (Jas 1:18). In John 6 Jesus says, “no one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him” (v. 44). humans do not effect this new birth. “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all,” yet he immediately adds, “the *words* that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (v. 63, emphasis added).

[And Horton goes on to add that ...] In attributing all efficacy to the Spirit’s power, Scripture nevertheless represents this as occurring through the Word of God that is “at work” (1Th 2:13; cf. 1Co 2:4-5; 2Co 4:13; Eph 1:17; Gal 3:2; 1Th 1:4; Tit 3:4) – specifically, that message of the gospel, which is “the power of God for salvation” (Ro 1:16; 10:17; 1Th 1:5). (*The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrim’s on the Way*, p. 573)

The Apostle John stresses the *results* of regeneration.

1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1-4, 18