

The new nature is that aspect of regeneration in which the moral and spiritual characteristics of man's nature are *initially and progressively renewed*, and the direction of man's conduct is changed from an active inclination toward sin to an active inclination toward righteousness

Regeneration is presented in the Bible under four key aspects: a new birth, a new life, a new creation, and a new nature. And I would suggest that the new birth results in a new life, and the new creation results in a new nature.

But now let us briefly ask the fourth question of this lesson:

#### IV. HOW CAN I KNOW WHETHER I AM TRULY REGENERATED?

Regeneration is a new birth resulting in a new life. I must ask myself the question: "Have I been born again? Am I God's spiritual child? Is God my heavenly Father?" Regeneration is a spiritual coming to life, a spiritual resurrection from the dead. I must ask myself: "Am I spiritually alive? Do I have this new life in me?"

I know that I am physically alive because life functions are going on in my body, because I am aware of my physical activity and movement, because I am aware of physical appetites and drives, and because I am experiencing the physical aspects of thought, feeling, and decision-making.

Similarly, I know that I am spiritually alive because life functions are going on in me, because I am aware of spiritual activity and movement, because I am aware of spiritual appetites and drives, and because I am experiencing spiritual thoughts, emotions, desires, intentions, and decisions.

Jesus said, "The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it is coming from or where it is departing; so is everyone having been begotten of the Spirit." We can't see the wind, but we can hear its sound and experience its other effects as it gently blows across a field of grain, or rustles through the leaves of trees, or cools our faces, or carries fleecy clouds along, or lashes ocean waves into great foaming breakers.