

So it is with spiritual life. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can experience His effects in our lives. New attitudes, new directions, new values, new goals, new interests, all directed toward God and the things pertaining to God – these are some of the effects of regeneration in an individual.

Regeneration is also a new creation, resulting in a new nature. It is a restoration of God's image and likeness in me. It means being restored to godlikeness, becoming more and more conformed to the perfect image of God in Christ. It means knowing God personally, and becoming a holly person, as He is holy. We must ask ourselves: "Am I a new person in Christ? Has the Holy Spirit begun to remake me in God's likeness? Do I have a different outlook on life, and do I see things in relation to the will and glory of God? Do I view my life in terms of spiritual realities, and in light of eternal values?

And we must also ask ourselves: "Has my nature, my very being, what I am, been renewed and renovated? Is the Spirit of God enabling me to begin putting to death the expressions of godlessness and unrighteousness in myself; the expressions of idolatry, profanity, superstition, unbelief, hypocrisy, rebellion against lawful authority, hatred, sinful anger, immorality, stealing, lying, and covetousness? Is He enabling me to begin producing expressions of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, with the result that the prevailing direction of my character and conduct is righteousness?

Let us ask ourselves honestly and lovingly and searchingly: "Have I been born again? Am I spiritually alive? Am I a new creature? And do I have a new nature? In other words, has the Spirit of God regenerated me?

God grant that it may be so for each of us!