

Regeneration is the impartation, by the Holy Spirit, of spiritual life to one who is spiritually dead.

Why is regeneration necessary? Because all natural descendants of Adam in their natural state are spiritually dead, dead in trespasses and sins, sinners, bondslaves to sin, at enmity with God, rebels against the Law of God, suppressors of the truth of God, unable to understand the things of God, unable to please God in any way, and continually standing under the wrath and condemnation of God!

The Bible reveals fallen man as **spiritually dead** and **morally depraved**. **These two aspects of man's spiritual condition establish the necessity of regeneration.**

The Bible presents the doctrine of regeneration under several aspects, but chiefly four: a new birth, a new life, a new creation, and a new nature.

The new birth is that act of the Holy Spirit by which a human being is spiritually reborn, thereby becoming a spiritual child of God. This implies such a tragic flaw in man's spiritual nature that a radical rebirth of his spirit is necessary before he can live a life pleasing to God.

The new life is that aspect of regeneration in which the spirit of a human being who is spiritually dead is, through union with Christ, made spiritually alive.

The new creation is that aspect of regeneration in which the spiritual and moral image ruined in the Fall is initially and progressively restored to the human spirit.

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

Regeneration is presented in the Scriptures under four key aspects: a new birth, a new life, a new creation, and a new nature. Upon analysis, it would appear that a further refinement suggests itself, in the form of interrelationships between these aspects. We can say that a new birth **results in** a new life, and a new creation **results in** a new nature.

If we meld together the definitions of these four aspects, we arrive at a complex definition somewhat like the following:

Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which a human being is spiritually reborn in spirit, made spiritually alive, restored to God's image,