

had to find hearts purified from sin before making them His temple. Christ, being without sin, was the first in whom the Spirit made His abode, and if He now lives within us, it is because of the blood of the Lamb which cleanses us from all our sins. But the atonement was not yet accomplished for believers under the Old Covenant.¹

We have just stated that in the Old Covenant, the Spirit accomplished an incomplete work in the heart of those upon whom He rested. Then what is the meaning of the text (I Sam. 10:9), "When he (Saul) had turned his back . . . God gave him another heart?" God without a doubt transformed his heart, but this does not necessarily mean that He regenerated it. The tragic end of Saul, rejected by the Lord, in any case shows that he had not received eternal life, which never ceases.²

William Barclay, however, writing in 1960, states that:

The Old Testament . . . tells us that the Spirit is not only God's agent in creation; the Spirit is also God's agent in re-creation. . . .

The Spirit is God's creating and God's re-creating power both in the world and in the individual life. . . . Every man needs to be made new; and he can be made new if he opens himself to the re-creating power of the Spirit of God.³

J. Barton Payne, in his Theology of the Older Testament, expands this

idea:

This definition of regeneration as being "in Christ" by no means, however, eliminates the doctrine of the new birth from the Old Testament. There is but one, unified testament God's sole plan of salvation, through which Christ offers a redemption that is equally effective for the saints of both dispensations. Christ states that Abraham, in the patriarchal period, rejoiced to see His day, "And he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56). Jesus was the Mediator of the older testament, as well as the newer (Heb. 9:15); and, since it is true that no man cometh unto the Father but by Him (John 14:6) and yet, since the saints of the older dispensation did indeed come to the father (Ps. 73:24), they must have been made perfect in Him (Heb. 11:40). Furthermore,

¹Rene Pache, The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, trans. J. D. Emerson (Chicago: Moody Press, 1954), pp. 30-31.

²Ibid., p. 32.

³William Barclay, The Promise of the Spirit (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960), p. 13.