

most freely, being made willing by his grace.¹

In addition to these Reformed confessions, two important Baptist confessions should be cited:

The New Hampshire Baptist Confession (Article VIII) states:

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.²

The Southern Baptist Declaration (Article 7) reads:

Regeneration or the new birth is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit, whereby we become partakers of the divine nature and a holy disposition is given, leading to the love and practise of righteousness. It is a work of God's free grace conditioned upon faith in Christ and made manifest by the fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.³

In addition to those scriptures already mentioned or alluded to, the following could be pointed out, as showing the relationship of the Holy Spirit to regeneration:

Galatians 3:2,3 -- This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:13, 14 -- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree; That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 4:6 -- And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

¹Ibid., p. 624.

²Ibid., pp. 744-45.

³F. M. McConnell, McConnell's Manual for Baptist Churches (Philadelphia: The Judson Press, 1926), pp. 31-32.