

Romans 7:5 -- "For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death."

Romans 7:18 -- "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature."

Romans 8:5-8 -- "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires, but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

I Corinthians 2:14 -- "The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Galatians 5:19 -- "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like."

Ephesians 2:1,3 -- "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. . . . All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of the sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

Ephesians 4:18 -- "They (the Gentiles) are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."

Colossians 2:13 -- "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ."

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.

But what is the nature of regeneration?

Before proceeding with a scriptural answer to this question, permit me to share an experience that I had when I was a student in college.

Following my first year of college, in which I was exposed to a great many assertions of unbelief, I had many questions and doubts.