



Regeneration

Note: The Scripture references in this hand-out are taken from the New King James Version.

What are we talking about when we speak of regeneration?

What is the difference between conversion and regeneration?

Let's take a look at one of the most important passages that helps us understand our new birth... the occasion where Jesus had an interview with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin:

John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

What does Jesus say must happen to you to see the kingdom of God? (John 3:3)

What is the kingdom of God?

What did Nicodemus think Jesus was talking about when He said you must be born-again? (John 3:4)

How does Jesus describe what it means to be born-again?

What does the water in John 3:5 refer to?

What is the difference of being born of the flesh and born of the Spirit?

What does the comparison of the wind which blows where it wishes tell us about those who are born of the Spirit?

How is being born-again a re-creation?

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

What has passed away for the believer?

How is being born-again a resurrection?

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the distinction between the body soul and spirit?

While it is the Holy Spirit who breaths life into our human spirit, what instrument does He use to help us come to the knowledge of the truth?

1 Peter 1:23 - having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

How does the Bible help us to distinguish between what comes from our soul and what comes from our spirit?

What was resurrected when we were born-again?

How do we know that we've been born again? Do we need some sort of supernatural experience to confirm this?

How does having a born-again spirit enable us to see things from God's perspective?

How do born-again believers know that they have a capacity to understand the truth?

1 Corinthians 2:14 - But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

What kind of evidence of being born-again should there be to the world?

Is this automatic, do we instantly start seeing things from God's perspective?

So does it mean we are perfect when we are born-again?

What is given to us when we are regenerated?

Ezekiel 36:26 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

How does Jesus' description of how we enter the kingdom of God correct human hopes that we may somehow inherit goodness from our parents, or earn it by good behavior or church background?

Does this mean that we should no longer have a sin nature?

Are the words of Jesus, "you must be born again" a challenge or an invitation?

Back to our text in John, why must we be born again?

How did God make us born-again? (John 3:6)