

# Regeneration and Resurrection

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Selected Scriptures

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## I. The Order of Salvation<sup>1</sup>

### A. The Order

1. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
2. The Gospel Call (proclaiming the message of the Gospel)
3. **Regeneration (being born again)**
4. Conversion (faith and repentance)
5. Justification (right legal standing before God)
6. Adoption (membership in God's family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct in life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord)
10. **Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)**

### B. The Timing of the Order

1. **Before the foundation of the world** (Eph 1:3-4). Sometimes referred to as "eternity past."
  - a) Election - **Ephesians 1:3-4**, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.* (1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:9; James 2:5; Titus 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14; Romans 8:28, 30, 33; 9:23, 24; 11:5, 6)
2. **On becoming a Christian**. **Romans 1:6**, *Including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ*, **Romans 8:30**, *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.* (2 Timothy 2:10)
  - a) The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
    - (1) Called – "*kaleō*" – to authoritatively communicate a demand for the presence or participation of. (To call; to name; to summon)
  - b) **Regeneration (being born again)**
    - (1) It is God's secret act of imparting new spiritual life to us (being born again).
  - c) Conversion (faith and repentance)
  - d) Justification (right legal standing)
  - e) Adoption (membership in God's family)
3. **Work out in this life** (**Philippians 2:12-13**, *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*)
  - a) Sanctification (right conduct in life)
  - b) Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
4. **At the end of this life**. **2 Corinthians 5:8**, *Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.* **Philippians 1:23**, *I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*
  - a) Death (going to be with the Lord)
5. **At the return of Christ** (Philippians 3:21-21, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58)
  - a) **Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)**

## II. The Work of Regeneration is singularly the work of God

### A. The testimony of John's Gospel.

1. **John 1:12-13**, *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to*

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<sup>1</sup> Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020. (Page 817)

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become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

a) The children of God are those who are born of God

(1) Not by physical relationship of birth.

(2) Not by the will of the flesh.

(3) Not by the will of man.

B. The analogy of birth.

1. Scripture refers to regeneration by the analogy of birth (“born” or “born again”). The impact of this is that we did not choose our physical birth nor did we choose or will our spiritual birth.

a) **James 1:18**, *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

b) **1 Peter 1:3**, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

c) **John 3:3–8**, *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, 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, “Truly, truly, 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 its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

C. The connection between prophecy and regeneration

1. **Ezekiel 36:26–27**, *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

2. **Ezekiel 11:19–20**, *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

### III. The Mystery of Regeneration

A. A mystery is something difficult or impossible to understand or explain. In theology, it is a religious belief based on divine revelation and regarded as beyond human understanding.

B. God instantaneously takes the spiritually dead (Eph 2:1) and makes them alive (born again).

1. **John 3:3**, *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

2. **Ephesians 2:5**, *Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*

3. **Colossians 2:13**, *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,*

### IV. The Results of Regeneration

A. A regenerated person is born into new life.

1. The example of Lydia (**Acts 16:14**, *One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.* (John 6:44, 65; 1 Peter 1:3)

B. A regenerated person lives out love.

1. **1 John 4:7**, *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

C. A regenerated person lives in God’s protection.

1. **1 John 5:18**, *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

D. A regenerated person will live in heartfelt obedience (Galatians 5:18-24)

E. A regenerated person is warned about works based salvation (Matthew 7:15-20, 22-23)