

THE HOLY SPIRIT— REGENERATION AND CONVERSION



We are studying how the Holy Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ. In Lesson #11 we learned that he begins through the work of effectual calling. Look at S.C. #31. By showing us our sin, making us understand who Jesus is, and causing us to want to believe in Jesus, what does the Holy Spirit persuade and enable us to do? _____

The Holy Spirit's working in us this way causes our **regeneration**. Look at that word. **Generate** means to *give life*, and **re** means *again*. So **regenerate** means to *give life again*. When the Holy Spirit regenerates us, we come from death (caused by sin) to life.

1. Define regeneration. _____
2. Look up John 3 where Jesus discusses regeneration. Regeneration is another word for being **born again**.
 - a. A man who was a very important religious leader came to Jesus at night. His name was (v. 1)

 - b. Because it was not enough to be religious, Jesus said to him, "Unless one is _____ he cannot see the kingdom of God." (v. 3)
Later in v. 7 he said, "Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be _____."
 - c. In explaining what he meant, Jesus said he had to be born of _____ and of the _____ (v. 5)
 - 1) Water probably meant baptism by John the Baptist in repentance for sin. It could also refer to human birth.

- 2) But even repenting of sin is not enough; we must be changed by the Holy Spirit — born of the **Spirit**.
3. Look up John 1:12, 13. Who did God make his children?
Those who _____ Jesus and who were born _____.
4. Conversion



Think
about it

Because the Holy Spirit calls and regenerates us, we are now able and willing to "embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel." This decision to follow Jesus is called conversion. Conversion has two parts — faith and repentance. Faith means turning to Jesus to be our Master and Savior, and repentance means turning from our sin.

- a. What are the two parts of conversion?

_____ and _____

1) Define faith: _____ to _____

2) Define repentance: _____ from _____

3) Notice the word "turning" is in both definitions.

- a) Can there be true faith without repentance?

Explain. _____

- b) Can there be true repentance if there is no faith? _____

Explain. _____

b. Look up S.C. #85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

- 1) _____ in Jesus Christ
- 2) _____ unto life
- 3) diligent use of all the _____

(We will study these later.)

c. What is faith in Jesus Christ? (S.C. #86) A saving grace, whereby we _____ and _____ upon him _____ for _____, as he is offered to us in the _____.

- 1) Is it true faith just to know that he is God and that he died on the cross for us? _____
- 2) True faith means we **rest** (put all our weight) on Jesus — he is our only hope for salvation. **Write down** one example from everyday life of how we put complete faith in something to support us.

d. What is repentance unto life? (S.C. #87) A saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of _____, and apprehension of the _____ of God in Christ, _____ his sin, _____ from it unto _____, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, _____.

- 1) Is it enough to be sorry for sin without turning away from it? _____
- 2) Can a person be **sure** of God's forgiveness through Christ if he truly repents? _____
- 3) How do you think a person can be sure he is truly repenting? _____



What do
YOU think?

5. Different people have different experiences.



People often have very exciting conversions (like the Apostle Paul) and can remember exactly when and how they were converted. Other people truly believe in Jesus and follow him but do not remember just when they were converted. What is important for all people is that they follow Jesus and trust only in him for salvation. If they are, they can say they have been converted.



a. Suppose you have a friend in whom the Holy Spirit is working. He really wants to pray to God, to repent and believe in Jesus, and be saved. He asks you to write a prayer that would say the right things to God so he could become a child of God. **Write out** the prayer you would give your friend to pray. _____

b. Have you been converted to Jesus Christ? Explain your answer. If you want to be but aren't sure how, write down your questions. It is important to answer this carefully. _



What do YOU think?

Date Completed _____

Parent's Initials _____