

Big Bible Words with Big Meaning "Regeneration"

Introduction:

1. As you study your Bible, there are two invaluable tools that will assist you.
 - First, a thorough Bible dictionary
 - Second, a good English dictionary
2. Many times you will be reading God's Word and encounter big words that you do not know the meaning of. This is true of any book.
 - But we know that every word of the Bible is God's Word, therefore it is crucial that we understand what we are reading.
 - **Proverbs 30:5-6** proclaims, *"Every word of God is pure...Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*
3. We know that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable (**2 Timothy 3:16**). But in order for you to get the profit out of it that God intended, you must understand the words you are reading and what they mean.
4. There are some big words in the Bible that are absolutely crucial to your salvation and spiritual growth.
5. For the past few weeks we have been examining and explaining some of these words that are absolutely essential that you understand. Your Christian life will not operate on the basis of ignorance. Paul said in **Colossians 1:9**, *"...that ye might be filled..."*
6. Today I want to examine an extremely important word. It is the word "regeneration." **Titus 3:5**

First, what does the word regeneration mean?

1. Webster's defines it as "reproduction, the act of producing anew." So this definition gives the idea of something new being created or brought to life.
2. Strong's Concordance defines it as, "rebirth, spiritual renovation."
3. **Titus 3:5** uses the phrase *"washing of regeneration."* This is the idea of a regenerative, life-giving bath or water.
 - **Illustration:** You've heard fables about the fountain of youth. Old men or women can find this regenerative fountain, drink of it, and become new people. They have a rebirth, so to speak.
4. The Bible teaches that spiritually there is a river of living water that has regenerative, life-giving, life-changing power. **John 4:14**

Second, why do I need regeneration?

1. The only way you would really need regeneration (life) is if you were dead.
2. You say, "That's kind of stupid. Of course I am alive. I'm here, breathing, and listening to you." But wait a minute - there is more to you than just your physical existence.
 - You were also created a spiritual being. You have a soul and spirit inside your body. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**
 - Here is the key question - do you have spiritual life within your soul and spirit?
3. The Bible teaches that nobody is born into the world with spiritual life.
Romans 5:12

- Have you ever sinned against God? Have you ever disobeyed God? Do you know how the Bible describes you? **Ephesians 2:1-3** - *Dead in trespasses and sins.*
4. If we are to have any hope of living eternally, we desperately need regeneration. If we die in our sins, our soul and spirit will suffer forever in the place of eternal death. **Revelation 20:14-15** - We need spiritual life!

Third, who can give me regeneration?

1. **Titus 3:5** has the answer to this question. Notice, after he uses the phrase "*washing of regeneration*" he then uses the phrase "*renewing of the Holy Ghost.*"
2. The words "regeneration" and "renewing" both mean "renovation." He tells you in this verse where they come from - God's Holy Spirit.
3. God alone can give life to the dead. The biggest lie Satan has going today is that you can somehow gain spiritual life by works that you do.
 - Keeping a set of religious rules
 - Practicing a list of religious rituals
 - Doing good works, getting baptized, joining the church, serving in the church
4. What does **Titus 3:5** clearly say? It says, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...*"
5. Isn't it interesting that according to this verse, a lost person without the life of God can do works of righteousness. The apostle Paul had his own self-righteousness at one time, but he said in **Philippians 3:7-8** that it was absolutely worthless.
6. You can do good works, join a church, get baptized by every church in town, perform religious rituals your entire life, and die in your sins. You can't regenerate yourself or impart spiritual life to yourself. It is the work of God's Spirit.

Fourth, how can I receive the regeneration of God's Spirit?

1. When the Holy Spirit enters into our spirit, He regenerates. He breathes life, eternal life, divine life into our spirit. No longer are we dead in sins, but alive in Christ. **Ephesians 2:5**
 - All of this is accomplished on the basis of Christ's finished work. **Titus 3:6**
 - The same Holy Spirit that raised up Jesus on the third day, now dwells in us. **Romans 8:11**
2. So how does all this happen? How does God choose those He regenerates? God gives His life to those who have been justified. **Titus 3:7**
3. Remember justification is when the sin issue has been dealt with and you are declared righteous and acceptable to God.
 - God cannot impart His life until the sin issue has been dealt with in justification. This is what we see in **Titus 3:7**.
 - Justification comes the moment you place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:1**
4. The moment you trust Christ, you are forgiven of all sins and you are declared no longer guilty, but righteous. This clears the way for God to be able to place His Spirit in you and join His life to you.
5. This is the order we see in **Ephesians 1:12-13**.
 - You must first hear the gospel.

- You make a decision to trust Christ and believe on Him (which brings justification).
- You then receive the regenerative life of God's Holy Spirit.

In Conclusion:

1. Sometimes you hear people praise God that they are saved and all their sins are forgiven.
2. That's only half of the story. God forgave you and cleansed you of all your sin so that He could, in turn, place His very life in you.
3. If you are saved, this means you have been regenerated and renewed by God's Spirit. Your spirit pulsates with divine life.
4. You have something better than the Fountain of Youth - you have partaken of the Fountain of God. **John 7:37-39**