

**The Holy Spirit in Regeneration**  
**Yirmeyah Tan, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

Shalom.

Today our topic is “**The Holy Spirit in Regeneration.**” Let me quote from **1Pe 1:3-5** –

**1Pe 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

**1Pe 1:4** *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

**1Pe 1:5** *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Let's examine first the role of the Trinity in our Salvation.

**I. The Trinity In Our Salvation**

- a. Our eternal salvation is the work of the Trinity.
- b. It was planned and initiated by **God the Father,**

**Eph 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

**Eph 1:4** *According as **He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:***

**Eph 1:5** *Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself,** according to the good pleasure of His will,*

**Eph 1:6** *To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*

We are chosen by the Father from before the foundation of the world.

- c. Agreed upon and implemented by **Yeshua-God the Son,** and

**Eph 1:7** *In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace;*

**Eph 1:8** *Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.*

**Eph 1:9** *Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:*

**Eph 1:10** *That **in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ,** both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:*

**Eph 1:11** *In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own Will:*

**Eph 1:12** ***That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ.***

I like the translation “trusted in Christ”. Too many Christians merely have an intellectual assent to Christ, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ but they do not really trust or obey Him.

Now we turn to the Holy Spirit.

- d. Imparted to believers by God: **the Holy Spirit** Who seals, Who is the “downpayment” or Guarantor of our promised inheritance and Who enables us:

***Eph 1:13*** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,*

***Eph 1:14*** *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.*

The word “earnest” can be translated as downpayment. All of us recognize this word when we purchase something we are requested to put a downpayment and the balance later.

- e. In every aspect of our salvation, the three Persons are working together  
f. Even when hanging on the cross, the Son was not alone in His vast achievement. It was God who was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself; the Father was offering His Lamb:

***2Co 5:18*** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

***2Co 5:19*** *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

- g. That sacrifice was offered through the eternal Spirit (Heb 9:14)

***Heb 9:13*** *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*

***Heb 9:14*** *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

The book of Hebrews tells us that, just as in the Temple, the High Priest would take the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle upon the Mercy Seat, so Yeshua by the Holy Spirit took His blood up to Heaven to sprinkle on the Mercy Seat. Not only that action but the cleansing of our conscience, the purging of our conscience and purging us from dead works. The sacrifices at the altar and the ashes of the heifer could only purify the flesh but could never purify the conscience of man.

When we study scriptures, we will find the manifold work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. Let's go through a list of the most important functions -

## **II. The Holy Spirit's Role In Our Salvation**

- a. Regeneration
- b. Conversion
- c. Justification
- d. Wisdom & Understanding
- e. Conviction of Sins & Chastisement
- f. Perseverance
- g. Sanctification

- h. Spiritual Gifts
- i. Fruits of the Spirit

This list is by no means exhaustive, but I believe I have captured the major ones. We are going to go through the very first function of the Holy Spirit in our regeneration.

### III. Regeneration

- a. Born again or from above

***Joh 3:3*** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

#### **Note: a new birth, not a rebirth as Nicodemus thought**

The word translated as “born again” is the Greek word ‘anōthen’ and it also means ‘from above’

I prefer the term ‘from above’ because Yeshua had this conversation with Nicodemus about this birth from above. Nicodemus asked Yeshua, do you mean that I should go back into my mother's womb to be born again? We are not getting a second birth experience in the natural but this is a totally new experience, a spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit from above.

- b. Cannot see the Kingdom of God

Second point: unless we are born from above, of water and of Spirit, we cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven. The word “see” comes from the Greek word ‘eidō’, and it means to know, to perceive, to see, to be sure, to understand. No one can understand the kingdom of God, no one can perceive it, no one can have a knowledge of the Kingdom of God unless he is born from above by the Holy Spirit. He will open our spiritual eyes to see His kingdom in order that we may desire to enter the Kingdom one day.

- c. Cannot enter the Kingdom of God

***Joh 3:5*** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*

The Spirit we understand as the Holy Spirit, but what does it mean to be born of water? The analogy to a natural birth: there is a bag of water that must be burst open before the baby is birthed so in the gush of water the baby is born. A similar analogy in the spiritual: that we must be born of water and Spirit. What does water stand for? Water can stand for water baptism and water can stand for the Word of Yahweh. In Ephesians 5, where Yeshua is talking about perfecting His bride, cleansing His bride, preparing His bride, He talks of washing her by the water of the Word. When Yeshua spoke to His disciples at one stage, He said: you are made clean by the Word that I have given and shared with you. How are we made clean by the Word of Yahweh? Every time we learn something new in scripture, we apply it to our lives, we change our ways, we give up our bad habits, we give up sin in particular areas as and when the Word shows us by the Holy Spirit. All these are the work of the Holy Spirit: born from above, born of water and of spirit, in order enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

d. The flesh avails nothing

**Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

What does that mean? It means that no man by his own power, his own will and his own ability, can set up a means for people to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Fourth point, we must highlight what the Bible calls the quickening of the Holy Spirit in **Joh 6:63** –

e. Quickening by the Holy Spirit

**Joh 6:63** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life.*

**Note:** When Martin Luther was debating whether fallen man is utterly dependent upon the Holy Spirit for regeneration, he cited this text and added: “The flesh profits nothing. And that ‘nothing’ is not a ‘little something.’”

Why do we need quickening by the Holy Spirit? Paul tells us that we were dead in our trespasses, spiritually dead, unable to respond to God at all.

After Adam and Eve's sin against God in the Garden of Eden, they lost spiritual communication with God. Death came to them, death came into this world, death persists in this world and in eternity as well. All the descendants of Adam and Eve face in this life, death, physical death. Every day the cells of our body are dying and one day the entire body will die and decay, become dust again in the earth. The soul, if not saved by Yeshua, will go to Hell and perish forever. Without Christ, this body will one day be resurrected in what the Bible calls the second resurrection unto eternal death-the second death.

Sixth point, this quickening of being made alive is together with Christ. Turn to **Eph 2:4-5** –

f. Made alive together with Christ

**Eph 2:4** *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

*Eph 2:5* *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

Even when we are dead in our sins, the Holy Spirit quickened us together with Christ. Why together with Christ? Because it is the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead. **Col 2:13** expresses the same thought –

**Col 2:13** *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

What a wonderful work of the Holy Spirit! No one else can do it for us.

Let's then talk about regeneration that is baptism, washing and renewal.

g. Washing of Reperation

**Tit 3:5** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

The “washing” comes from the Greek word ‘loutron’ and it means a bath, baptism, washing.

The “renewal” comes from the Greek word ‘anakainōsis’ and the Thayer Dictionary definition is a renewal, a renovation, complete change for the better.

Next, related to the issue of regeneration is the subject of **conversion**. A lot of people think that conversion occurs because they went to a crusade and accepted Christ. Let's look at what the Bible says about the real or the true conversion process: it has to do with conviction of sin. Turn to **Joh 16:7-11** –

#### **IV. Conversion**

##### **a. Conviction of sin**

**Joh 16:7** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

**Joh 16:8** *And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:***

**Joh 16:9** *Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

**Joh 16:10** *Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;*

**Joh 16:11** *Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

First of all, the word “reprove” means to convict and comes from the Greek word ‘elegchō’ which, according to the Thayer dictionary is to convict, to refute, to confute, generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted, by conviction to bring to the light.

At some stage later, I will show you the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. He also convicts Christians of their sins contrary to what Joseph Prince is falsely preaching.

The Bible tell us that the truth is we are born of the will of God via the Holy Spirit. How do I know this? Look at **Joh 1:12-13** –

##### **b. Born of the will of God via The Holy Spirit**

**Joh 1:12** *But as many as **received** him, to them gave He **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**Joh 1:13** **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**Note: when we receive Christ, it looks like our own volition [will] but, in reality, it is the Will of God, via the Holy Spirit.**

We are given the privilege to become children of God.

The next important concept in our conversion is faith. Let me refer to **Rom 10:8-11** –

##### **c. Faith**

**Rom 10:8** *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach;*

**Rom 10:9** *That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

**Rom 10:10** *For **with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

**Rom 10:11** *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

Faith means to **commit (to trust), put in trust with.**

Next, the Bible tells us that faith comes to us in **Rom 10:17** –

**d. Faith Comes**

***Rom 10:17*** So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

The word “hear” in the English and, even in the Greek, does not quite convey what the Hebrew word can convey and does convey. The word Hebrew ‘shama’ means ‘hear and obey’.

In scriptural terms, what we hear must be embedded in us and then prompt us to change our lifestyle, obey, forsake sin, and pursue righteousness to His glory. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

The Greek word that is translated for word of God here is not the Greek word logos so it does not refer to the entire Bible. ‘Rhēma’ is an utterance for particular occasion. You will often come across a verse which says you must obey my voice, my commandments, my ordinances and so on:

***Deu 13:4*** *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him.*

Moses always obeyed the voice of God.

Finally, faith is not something we generate for ourselves. The faith that leads to our salvation, is a gift of God. If you read the famous passage in Eph 2:8-9 which is quoted by people who preach the gospel very often wrongly especially by Joseph Prince. It says in **Eph 2:8-9** –

**e. Faith is a Gift of God**

***Eph 2:8*** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*Eph 2:9* *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Faith is the gift of God and grace is the Holy Spirit given to us to empower us to overcome sin, to work out our salvation in fear and trembling because God is at work in us.

Shalom.