

## B. Faith

1. Faith is a gift of God whereby He enables us to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and trust wholly and completely in Him for salvation.

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**” (Romans 12:3).

2. Faith is not mental assent or the acknowledging of facts.

The devils also believe and tremble (read James 2:19). For example, the faith given at salvation is not saying you believe in Jesus Christ like a person would believe in George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. The faith given at salvation is perfect and complete trust, like a little girl who jumps into her father’s arms to protect her from an attacking dog. Her faith is completely in him.

Another example is jumping out of an airplane. A person with a parachute puts 100% of his faith in the parachute to take him safely to his destination.

3. The agent that brings faith to us is the Word of God.

“So then **faith cometh** by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God.**” (Romans 10:17). “Wherefore **the law was** our schoolmaster **to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” (Galatians 3:24-25). Faith is “belief, trust, dependence, or confidence in someone else and their words.”

At salvation a person believes “**in**” Jesus Christ and “**on**” Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth **in** him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed **in** the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18).

By “**in**” Jesus Christ we mean in who He is. **He is Lord.** Do not confuse this with “Lordship Salvation.” What we mean is that a person who denies that Jesus Christ is Lord cannot be saved. Jesus said, “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I am he**, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8:24). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh. He is the Son of God and God the Son.

“Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, **The Lord said unto my Lord**, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? **If David then call him Lord**, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.” (Matthew 22:42-46).

### Here are a few other verses on the deity of Jesus Christ:

“For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a **son** is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name shall be called** Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6).

“I and my Father are one.” (John 10:30).

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16).

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our**

**Saviour Jesus Christ;**” (Titus 2:13).

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of **God**, which he hath **purchased with his own blood.**” (Acts 20:28).

“Hereby perceive we the love of **God**, because he **laid down his life for us:** and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16).

But a person can believe **“in”** Jesus Christ and still go to Hell. They must also believe **“on”** Him. “And they said, Believe **on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31).

By believing **“on”** the Lord Jesus Christ we mean dependance upon what He has done for us. When we believe the gospel we are saved. The Gospel is all about what Christ has done for us and not what we can do for ourselves.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; And that he **was buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

So a person must believe **“in”** Jesus Christ (who He is) and **“on”** Jesus Christ (what He has done) to be saved. That is the saving faith that God puts in us the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

At this divine moment in a person’s life the following takes place or begins to take place:

- I. Regeneration**
- II. Justification**
- III. Redemption**
- IV. Adoption**
- V. Sanctification**
- VI. Imputation**
- VII. Propitiation**
- VIII. Reconciliation**
- IX. Atonement**
- X. Glorification**

Let’s study these one by one.

## **I. Regeneration**

### **A. What is regeneration?**

Regeneration means to “re-gene” or – an easier way to understand – being born again. This is not speaking in physical terms (John 3:4-6, “Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”), but in spiritual terms (John 3:5-8, “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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”). Regeneration means to have a new birth, a spiritual birth.

## B. How does this work?

The Holy Spirit impregnates the heart of an unbeliever with the seed of God, which is the Word of God.

“Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God**.” (Luke 8:11)

“Being born again, not of corruptible **seed**, but of **incorruptible**, by **the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Peter 1:23).

As a person believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he or she is born again by the Word of God as a new creation, “a babe in Christ.” “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” (I Peter 2:2).

“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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13).

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is **born of God**: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.” (1 John 5:1).

“For whatsoever is **born of God** overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4).

“Of his own will **begat he us with the word** of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” (James 1:18).

The agents that regenerate us are the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. This, therefore, is not a human effort to become a better person, but a miraculous, supernatural new birth whereby God creates an entirely new person in us. Man at salvation becomes a new creature.

“Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“For in **Christ** Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creature**.” (Galatians 6:15).

See John 3:3-8 again.

## C. Who is this “new man” God has created in us?

### 1. He is “created in righteousness and true holiness.”

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is **created in righteousness and true holiness**.” (Ephesians 4:24).

### 2. He is created.

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge **after the image of him** that created him:” (Colossians 3:10).

### 3. He is incapable of sinning.

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for **his seed** remaineth in him: and he **cannot sin**, because he is born of God.” (I John 3:9).

God does not reform the old man (Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified

with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”), but rather creates an entirely new man in a person who believes the gospel. A perfect new man, in His image who is incapable of sinning. We then become partakers of the divine nature, which results in a changed life.

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as **his divine power** hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1:1-4).

Regeneration is not a reforming the old man, but is God making a brand new man in us.

“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;” (Titus 3:5).

“And I will give them one heart, and I will put **a new spirit within you**; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:” (Ezekiel 11:19).

“**A new heart** also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26).

## D. What does regeneration do?

### 1. Gives a New Birth

Like in physical birth, it is an experience, not a process. It is a one-time event that places us into the family of God.

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (I John 3:1-2).

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63).

See also John 3:3-7.

### 2. Gives a New Life

A unison with Christ through the Spirit.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### 3. Gives a New Nature

This is a divine nature, the attributes of which are imparted by the Spirit.

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1:4).

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Note: We’ve seen that regeneration is like creation. It is God making something out of nothing.