

# NEWSLETTER

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## GENERATION AND RE-GENERATION

(Interested, but Strapped for time? At the end of this article are eight points on generation and regeneration.)

**DEFINITION:** **GENERATION** means to bring into being. God generated the CREATION, giving it life; which, continues by the process of PROCREATION of man, animals and all other living things.

**REGENERATION**, from the Bible is a Greek word, PALINGENESIA (palin, again, and genesis, birth).

**PREMISE:** God created and controlled the earth - giving life to it, until the FALL of man; which, plunged all the creation into sin, death and decay. Afterwards, the creation was left to its natural and physical life, alone. Spirit-Life from God was severed. Therefore, the only means of reconciling man and the creation back to God, was to restore the Spirit-life that was lost in the Fall. God must step in and **REGENERATE** His creation.

**Which came first, the chicken or the egg?** The answer is not puzzling to church goers. It's the chicken that came first because God created all living kinds of birds, fully developed for laying eggs.

On the fifth day "God said, '**Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth...and every winged fowl after his kind:**'" Ge 1:20, 21b.

Since God created (Generated) all things into being - such as the chicken, we clearly see that the Word of God must be the first cause of life. It was all the creation that under went the FALL, not just its head, Adam. At the FALL, Life was restricted to that within the physical, alone. Man, and all of the creation, fell from the sustaining life that God initiated it with in the beginning.

So, let's reason together by restating the premise: If God started everything, including man, generating the creation into existence by His Spiritual power of life, then clearly, we understand that the old creation, including mankind, must be **RE-GENERATED** to receive back its Spiritual life that was lost when sin entered the creation. Until mankind and the creation becomes regenerated, the first creation - the Old Creation, has to continue in its own, limited life. Man is given three score

and ten years of life. But, no matter the length, all created life, lives for just a few years. Death, the robber of life, conquers the creation, in the end.

## **MAN SPIRIT IS AWARE AND MAN HAS TRIED TO GET BACK TO HIS CREATOR IN EVERY AGE PERIOD**

Wikipedia reports that man has always worshipped, going from polytheistic to monotheistic practices. While, we receive what the Bible teaches over any other source, the point is, man has always worshipped. It's a fact! An Anthropology course I took at Hartnell Community College, Salinas, Ca., confirmed this point. The instructor taught that evidence of worship is seen in every age of mankind.

It is marvelous to make mention that only man attempts acts of worship. My intelligent Border Collie Dogs have never gone to a church service. They bow down to me. That's because man is head of this creation. He is over all other things.

Because man is the **crowning of God's creation**, the creation is dependent upon man and his actions. We are no longer in the garden of Eden but we are still the earth's care takers. As goes man, so goes the creation. Thus, because man fell into sin by disobedience, the entire earth reaped the consequences. But, there's hope in Scripture.

"...Thou crownedst him (man) with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands:

Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet...but now we see **not yet** all things put under him. **BUT WE SEE JESUS,**" Hebrews 2:7, 8, & 9 (from Ps 8).

The book of Romans wraps up what Psalms prophesized and what Hebrews explains. The Apostle Paul clearly reveals that all mankind come under one of the two Heads of creation - either, the first Adam or Jesus, the Second Adam. Through Scripture, we understand that Adam, "the original generated man," fell from God's living control. "For by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," 5:12.

But, what rejoicing man experiences when he learns that the Second Adam, Jesus Christ was given to us, as a gift. Once man trusts in the Savior, Jesus, he comes under a new Head. By faith through grace, sinful man receives the life of God that lived in Jesus Christ in the incarnation. **READ AND RE-READ John 5:26**. "For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself...the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation," (26, 28, 29).

The book of Romans, again. "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ," (5:17).

REGENERATION IS ABOUT GOD'S LIFE, HIS ETERNAL LIFE THAT IS GIVEN TO MAN WHICH DECLARES THAT; WHILE MEN LIVES RELATIVE TO HIS PHYSICAL BODY, HE SHALL LIVE ONCE AGAIN - EVEN THOUGH HIS PHYSICAL LIFE EXPIRES. BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, MAN SHALL LIVE IN SPIRIT; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING.

In the doctrine of "**REGENERATION**," new life is imparted to the old creation. For man, it is a new life that comes by a **rebirth**. I, personally, believe that man's spirit never changes in its make-up. The spirit of man is who he is. He, the man, will go to damnation in his spirit - without physical life.

The saved man, at the point of faith, has his spirit removed (declaratively, in God's will) from death (the old life) and place into new life; the life of Christ, Jesus. However, no change - OTHER than positional, occurs to the spirit of man in the new birth. Having been born of the flesh, man must be born again (born from above); but, it is the same spirit because it is the same man. A new body, YES! But, the same person of man. And, won't we look tremendous in those new clothes?

When we look at the "**Chicken and egg**" question in light of **REGENERATION**, we ask, "Which came first in man's salvation, the **REBIRTH** or baptism; **REBIRTH** or church membership; and, **REBIRTH** or works?"

And, like the "**chicken/egg**" understanding, clearly man is created in Christ Jesus before anything. The power of God's life generates man's spirit; and, in **REGENERATION**, man has eternal life. Missionary Baptists believe in serving and working for the Lord in this life; but, it is a salvation that is worked out, based upon the life that we have; not, in order to receive the life.

What we have to do is keep in mind that God speaks things into existence. God speaks and His words generate a creation. God speaks and man is given life. There is no possible way that Life comes into being through development on its own. Nothing, plus nothing equals nothing. However, nothing, plus God equals eternity. Life has a beginning. And, God is the beginning, just as it was when life was created from nothing that existed before. Everything we see in creation was produced by God's words, "**Let there be.**"

## CONCERNING THE CHANGE AND THE REGENERATION OF THIS WORLD

The word, **REGENERATION**, is used only twice in the New Covenant. Once in Matthew 19:28, where there is a "**restoration of all things**" (Acts 3:21). Vine's Study of New Testament Words says of **REGENERATION**: "**This restitution will not in the coming Millennial age be universally a return to the pristine condition of Edenic innocence previous to the Fall, but it will fulfill the establishment of God's Covenant with Abraham concerning his descendants, a veritable re-birth of the nation, involving the peace and prosperity of the Gentiles.**" It is a time when the King is set upon His holy hill of Zion (Ps2:6).

The only other occurrence of **REGENERATION** is in Titus 3:5. Vine has this to say on the Greek word **PALINGENESIA**, a new birth (palin, again, genesis, birth), ...involving the communication of a new life, the two operating powers to produce which are "the word of truth," James 1:18; I Peter 1:23, and the Holy Spirit, John 3:5,6; the **loutron**, the **laver**, the washing, is explained in Ephesians 5:26, "having cleansed it by the washing (loutron) of water with the word." (**The "it," in 5:26, is the Church that will marry Christ. Not only must we have the new birth, we must also be washed and cleansed. To have fellowship with Christ, we must have fellowship with His church.**)

When we preach, discuss and debate, we must have a good grasp of the Scripture. However, we will fare better if we focus on concepts that Scripture supports. For example, confronting a so-called Jehovah's Witness about the plan of salvation, we need to go to the **Creation** concept, when nothing existed. If the generation of the creation began and ended with nothing but God, then the **REGENERATION of the old fallen first creation**, must also begin and end with nothing but God. We might want to carry these points on **GENERATION** and **REGENERATION** around with us, looking for those people with briefcases or, bicycles.

1. God created all things. All Biblical concepts come from, and support, this eternal truth
2. To be a Christian, a believer in Christ, the Genesis account of creation must be the only explanation of life.
3. Disobedience caused Adam to Fall, plunging him and all mankind that he was head of, into separation from God's life.
4. Sin separated man from God and he will remain apart unless the New Covenant tenet of **RECONCILIATION** occurs.
5. Since, the Fall, unless God intervenes, man is left with only his physical life which, dies and decays. Afterward, death.

6. Because of his spirit, man is aware of being separated from God. But, with the "spirit locked up" in the flesh prison, all attempts

to work his way back to God, are futile and, therefore, works for salvation actually, defines what sin is.

7. Yet, man tries. Man is religious. So is Satan, who offers and receives any method that man applies; as long as it is not the **GOSPEL**.

8. God's plan will be completed. He is interested in man, sending Jesus to "**take on flesh**," live perfectly, finally, dying for man. In giving His life, Jesus took away the Law, "**nailing it to His cross**." When a sinner trusts Jesus, the Law is gone and new life begins.