

THE MATTER OF REGENERATION AND ITS RESULTS

I. THE PLACE OF REGENERATION IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- A. Being regenerated or "*born again*" and receiving a new spiritual life which is everlasting should be the top priority and most important concern in every person's life (Matt. 6:33; Jn.3:3, 5).
- B. Being regenerated is an absolute pre-requisite in order for a person to live the Christian life (Rom. 6:11-13; Gal. 5:16).
 - 1. Without this new birth there can be no pleasing God in one's life (Rom. 8:8, 9; Isa. 64:6; Matt. 12:43-45).
 - 2. Without this new birth there is no power to produce the fruits of a Christian life (Rom. 8:9; 5:5; Gal. 5:22, 23).
 - 3. Without this new birth there is no pleasure in trying to live a Christian life (Jn.15:10, 11; 16:24; I Jn.5:3). This is no doubt the problem with many professing Christians and why they derive such little joy and find it so difficult to live their lives for the Lord - they have never been born again and need to be saved.

II. THE PROCESS OF REGENERATION THAT PRODUCES THE NEW LIFE IN A CHRISTIAN

- A. The new birth which produces new life in a person involves the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God and imparts spiritual life to those who believe at the very moment that they believe (I Pet. 1:23; Titus 3:5; Eph. 1:13).
- B. This work of the Holy Spirit involves a matter of convicting unbelievers who hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17; Jn. 16:8-11, 13, 14). A person is then faced with a decision to receive the Spirit's testimony of Christ and believe in Him or to reject Him (Acts 7:51; I pet. 1:22).

III. THE PROOFS OF REGENERATION WHICH ARE EXPERIENCED IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

- A. After a person is regenerated or born again he will sense God's forgiveness and the removal of the burden of sin (Col. 2:13; I Jn.1:9). Notice the Song "Rolled away..."
- B. After regeneration there will be a joy which floods the soul of the believer where there used to be guilt and sorrow over sins (I Pet. 1:3-6; 8).
- C. After regeneration there will be a new sensitivity toward sin and a holy dissatisfaction when one does wrong (I Jn. 3:9; 1:5-7).
- D. After regeneration there will be a desire for the spiritual food of God's Word (I Pet.2:2). And one will want to know more about God.
- E. After regeneration there will be an ability and enablement to understand God's Word (Jn.16:3; I Cor. 2:14,15; I Jn.2:27).
- F. After regeneration there will be the desire to communicate with God in prayer (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).
- G. After regeneration there will be a desire to serve the Lord (I Thess. 1:9; Col. 1:9,10).

III. THE PRODUCTS OF REGENERATION WHICH RELATE TO LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- A. The believer becomes a special object of God's grace and care so that he can now depend upon the Lord to take care of him and provide for his needs (Matt. 6:8, 31-33; 10:29-31; I Pet. 5:7).
- B. The believer can now fellowship with God as he obeys God's Word and carries out God's will in his life (I Jn. 1:6, 7). Being in fellowship with God is based upon obedience to His Word. To obey His Word is to be in fellowship and to disobey His Word is to be out of fellowship. When one is disobedient and out of fellowship he will lose his joy of salvation and the necessary relationship

to communicate with the Lord and receive answers to prayer (Psa. 51:12; 66:18; I Jn. 3:21,22).

C. The believer becomes subject to God's discipline (Heb. 12:5-7). When he does wrong the Lord will chasten him to correct him. And the object of this dealing will be to produce fruits of righteousness in his life (Heb. 12:11).

D. The believer has a duty to learn God's will as it is revealed in His Word and to do it (Eph. 5:17; Psa. 1:1-3). Blessings in the Christian life will therefore be predicated upon the believer learning God's will about various things and doing it (Col. 1:9; Jn. 7:17; Eph. 6:6; Heb. 13:21; I Pet. 4:2).