

## Session 2: The Holy Spirit's Ministry of Regeneration

### Is It So? | Dr. Randy White

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#### 1. Introduction to Regeneration

- **Focus of the Session:**
    - Exploring the concept of regeneration as one of the foundational works of the Holy Spirit.
    - Understanding how regeneration relates to Israel's prophetic promises and the Church.
  - **Approach:**
    - Examine regeneration through a literal interpretation of Scripture.
    - Compare Old Testament promises of Israel's renewal with New Testament descriptions of the Spirit's work.
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#### 2. The Meaning of Regeneration

- **Definition:**
    - *Biological Perspective:* Regeneration involves the process of restoration and renewal, as seen in the natural world.
    - *Biblical Perspective:* Regeneration in Scripture refers to spiritual renewal, not creating something entirely new, but a restoration of life and purpose through the Spirit.
  - **Key Term (Titus 3:5):**
    - *Greek: Palingenesia* (παλιγγενεσία) – "Rebirth" or "renewal."
    - Found only twice in Scripture (Titus 3:5 and Matthew 19:28).
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#### 3. Regeneration in Scripture

##### A. Old Testament Foundations

- **Key Passages:**
  - *Ezekiel 36:25-27:* Promise of a new heart and spirit for Israel.
  - *Ezekiel 37:14:* Spirit breathed into dry bones, symbolizing life and restoration.
  - *Jeremiah 31:31-34:* The New Covenant – God writes His law on Israel's hearts.
  - *Isaiah 44:3-5:* God pours out His Spirit like water on dry ground.
  - *Joel 2:28-29:* Spirit poured out on all flesh, marking a new era for Israel.

##### B. New Testament Application

- **John 3:5-8:**
    - Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus introduces being "born of water and Spirit."
    - Context: Kingdom promises for Israel, not directly applicable to the Church.
  - **Titus 3:5-7:**
    - Paul speaks of "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."
    - This describes the Spirit's work in bringing believers into a life of renewal and transformation.
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#### 4. Key Observations on Regeneration

- **Not Entirely New:**
    - Regeneration doesn't create something fundamentally different but restores and renews what was damaged by sin.
  - **Unified Process:**
    - *Washing of regeneration* and *renewing of the Holy Ghost* in Titus 3:5 describe one unified act by the Spirit.
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#### 5. Living a Regenerated Life

Paul instructs believers on how to live out their regeneration:

1. **Walk in Newness of Life (Romans 6:4):**
    - Live with a fresh perspective and purpose, aligning with the Spirit's work.
  2. **Serve in Newness of Spirit (Romans 7:6):**
    - Move beyond legalistic service to joyful, Spirit-empowered living.
  3. **Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind (Romans 12:2):**
    - Allow the Spirit to shape your thoughts and attitudes daily.
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#### 6. Practical Applications

- **Daily Renewal (2 Corinthians 4:16):**
    - Seek the Spirit's refreshment each day.
  - **Put on the New Man (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10):**
    - Actively embrace your new identity in Christ.
  - **Engage with God's Word (Ephesians 5:26):**
    - Allow Scripture to cleanse and renew your heart and mind.
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#### 7. Conclusion

- Regeneration is the Spirit's work of bringing spiritual renewal, offering a fresh start and a new purpose in life.
- This process is not a one-time event but a continual journey of transformation, empowered by the Spirit.
- As believers, we are called to cooperate with the Spirit, walking in newness of life and serving with a renewed spirit.

#### Key Takeaway:

Embrace regeneration as an opportunity for daily renewal, allowing the Spirit to transform you into a new creature in Christ, equipped for a life of faith, joy, and purpose.