



Regeneration

To re-create, reconstitute, or make over, especially
in a better form or condition.
([dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com))

Semantics Part 3

Popular Christianity teaches that at the moment of *conversion*, the believer in Jesus Christ is immediately *saved, regenerated, indwelt* by the Holy Spirit, and is therefore now *born again*. This series (*Semantics*) continues to investigate this statement, by examining the distinctions between these commonly used Christian terms.

The *Introduction* to this series demonstrated that salvation is not simply a one-time decision for Christ, but rather the beginning of a *process* that *includes* conversion, regeneration, sanctification, and so much more;¹ Neither will it end until the complete restoration of fallen man is fully accomplished.² Salvation is *what* God is doing. Regeneration is *how* He does it. Salvation is the *plan* that gets the soul from Point A to Point B; Regeneration is the *operating force* that works out that plan. Full and complete salvation is the goal; Regeneration is the method God uses to achieve that goal.³

Regeneration vs Conversion

Conversion *is not* regeneration; Conversion *leads to* regeneration. Conversion involves the heart, mind and will; Regeneration involves the spirit. Conversion *declares* the soul righteous; Regeneration *imparts* God's righteousness. Conversion grants *entrance* into the Kingdom; Regeneration grants *inheritance* in the Kingdom. Conversion is the Holy Spirit WITH you; Regeneration is the Holy Spirit IN you.⁴ Conversion does not change man's fallen nature; Regeneration does. Conversion is not the New Birth; Regeneration is!

The New Birth, "In Christ"

Regeneration means *rebirth*,⁵ and begins the moment the Lord *breathes* His Spirit into the spirit of the converted believer.⁶ That spirit is now *quickened*, i.e., *regenerated*. The spirit is brought back from death to life and is now *born again*.⁷ This new birth does not often happen at conversion. A true convert will indeed experience a new love for God, Jesus, and the Bible, and have a new way of life opened up to him. Yet it may not be the new birth that comes through regeneration. Only a rebirth of the Son of God in the soul can change the nature of sinful man into the nature of Jesus Christ.⁸ For regeneration is nothing less than a *New Birth* in Christ. To be regenerated is to be *in Christ*! Christ has not only entered *into* the Christian—the Christian has now entered *into* Christ!⁹

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Eating and Drinking

At regeneration the spirit of the soul is *baptized* into the Body of Christ.¹⁰ Christ is the Vine and the regenerate spirit is the branch.¹¹ Now the soul feeds daily, not only on the Word of God, but also on the very LOVE-Sap of the Master Vine! This is typified in the Lord's Supper: a daily feeding and drinking directly from the Lord Christ Himself.¹² A true believer can indeed abide *in Jesus*;¹³ but only the regenerated can abide *in Christ*. A true Christian can *feed* directly from the Lord Jesus; but only the regenerate can *feed* directly from Christ.

Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ

The Spirit of God was breathed into man at *generation*; the Spirit of Christ is breathed into man at *regeneration*. The Spirit of God is the *breath* in your lungs.¹⁴ The Spirit of Christ is the *new breath* of the Holy Spirit.¹⁵ The Spirit of God is the Trinity—with the Father predominant as Creator.¹⁶ The Spirit of Christ is the Trinity—with the Son predominant as Savior. ¹⁷ The Holy Spirit is the Trinity—with the Spirit of Christ as Sanctifier.¹⁸ The Old Covenant was under the administration of the Father; The New Covenant is under the administration of the Son and the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Without the Spirit God none can know God; Without the Spirit of Christ none can *reenter* Paradise.²⁰

Entrance vs Inheritance

Jesus was the first to go through regeneration.²¹ Though He was born without a sin nature, and committed no sin, yet He went through regeneration for *our* sakes.²² He experienced crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension—to provide the way for His followers to enter with Him into glory.²³ Only those who *follow* Jesus *in the regeneration* will sit upon Heavenly Thrones.²⁴ A true Christian may indeed be granted *entrance* to the Kingdom. But unless *fully* regenerated, that soul *cannot* rule and reign with Christ!

The Thing Most Needful

Conversion (saving faith) is gained through repentance toward God, and faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Regeneration is gained through obedience to the faith,²⁵ and by waiting,²⁶ asking, seeking, and knocking.²⁷ However, since new converts are often told they are immediately regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, practically nothing of true regeneration can be found in Christian lives today. And while it is the Spirit of God that is directly involved in conversion, moving the soul towards faith in the Son,²⁸ it is the Spirit of Christ who regenerates and moves the soul toward complete restoration and perfection. Lack of this understanding so often prevents the true Christian from ever entering into the regeneration process. If God has accepted your repentance and faith, you are indeed saved and allowed entrance into the Kingdom. But without regeneration, you will not be able to fully overcome in this life, nor receive any inheritance in the next.

The Everlasting Gospel

Full salvation is only attained through regeneration.²⁹ It begins with the spirit,³⁰ advances to the soul,³¹ and ends with body.³² Only through the *Spirit of Regeneration* can the believing soul overcome the world, the flesh, and the Devil. This *Regenerator* IS the risen Christ! He IS the *Treasure Hidden in the Field*,³³ and the *Pearl of Great Price*;³⁴ that whosoever finds, will most willingly sell all that he has in order to buy this precious treasure. This IS the *Everlasting Gospel* that, having been lost and obscured for so long, will soon be preached again throughout the entire world.³⁵

Continued in *Semantics Part 4 – Born Again*.

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the King James Bible

1 And ultimately resurrection and glorification.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the 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. (Joh 5:28-29)

For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Heb 2:10)

2 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. (Isa 65:17)

3 The stages of regeneration are: first the spirit; next the soul; finally the body.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Th 5:23)

4 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth **with you**, and shall be **in you**. (Joh 14:16-17)

5 Strong's Greek Dictionary, #G3824: (spiritual) *rebirth* (the state or the act), that is, (figuratively) spiritual *renovation*; specifically Messianic *restoration*.

6 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (Joh 20:22)

7 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Eph 2:1)

8 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Rom 8:2)

And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (Rom 8:10)

9 At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. (Joh 14:20)

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

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1Co 12:13)

11 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (Joh 15:5)

12 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (Joh 6:53)

13 As did His disciples prior to Christ's death and resurrection.

14 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)

All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils; (Job 27:3)

15 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (Joh 20:22)

16 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Gen 1:1)

So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:27)

17 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Heb 5:9) See also Romans 3:21 – 7:25.

18 See Romans 8:1-39.

19 In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away. (Heb 8:13)

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. (Heb 12:24)

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20 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Rev 2:7)

21 Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mat 19:28)

22 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: (1Co 15:3-4)

23 Whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, he also justified: and whom he justified, he also glorified. (Rom 8:30)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2Co 3:18)

To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Col 1:27)

24 Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mat 19:28)

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Rev 3:21)

25 And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (Act 5:32)

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Heb 5:9)

26 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. (Luk 24:49)

27 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Rev 3:20)

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (Mat 7:7)

28 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (Joh 6:39)

29 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, (Heb 6:1)

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Mat 5:48)

30 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Eph 2:1)

31 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

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. (Rom 6:6)

And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (Rom 8:10)

32 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: (Rom 6:5)

He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. (Col 1:18)

33 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. (Mat 13:44)

34 When he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Mat 13:46)

35 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, (Rev 14:6)