

Chapter 4 “The Holy Spirit and Salvation” The Holy Spirit – Graham

When a person comes to Christ, the Bible tells us the Holy Spirit has been at work in a number of ways.

The Need for Spiritual Rebirth

No science, technology, economic restructuring, or self-improvement can change man’s basic nature (moral capacities)

Only God – the One who created us – can re-create us

“a new creature” (2 Cor 5:17)

“born again” (I Peter 1:23)

Story of Nichodemus – John 3 – religion is not enough

“You must be born again” (John 3:7)

this new birth (spiritual regeneration) is accomplished by Holy Spirit

“born of the Spirit (John 3:8)

“born of flesh is flesh...born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6)

Sin – rebellion against God

Problem of the heart (Matt 15:19,20)

Transgression of the law (I John 3:4)

Iniquity (Isaiah 53:6)

Death (Rom 5:12)

The Holy Spirit Convicts Us and Calls Us

Sin blinds us (2 Cor 4:4)

Holy Spirit convinces us of the truth of the Gospel (John 14:17)

Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (John 16:8-11)

It is the truth of the Word of God which is used by the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to our hearts (Rom 10:17; Heb 4:12; John 6:44)

Warning about resisting the calling of the Holy Spirit

(Gen 6:3; 2 Chron 33; 2 Cor 6:2; Prov 29:1)

The Holy Spirit Regenerates Us

Regeneration – renewal or rebirth – Gk “birth again” or new birth (Titus 3:5)

once for all change – continuing effects

the sinner in his natural state is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins

regeneration – that which is dead is made alive

justified by God from the broken law

forgiven of every sin

become a new creation (creature) (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15)

It is the Holy Spirit who regenerates us within

New birth is a “mystery” – miracle

“new man” not recognized at first

godly living will appear (2 Cor 4:17)

Important to recognize personal faith and decision (Matt 7:7; Jer 29:13; Eph 2:8)

The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and makes the child of God

Spirit of God indwells – brings life – eternal life

Regeneration is the work of the God's Spirit

The indispensable condition of the new birth is repentance and faith, but
repentance and faith itself does not save.

Genuine faith is God's gift to a person – helping us to repent
(John 5:21; Rom 6:13; Col 3:9,10)

Cannot inherit regeneration – (John 1:12; Acts 8:21)

Cannot be regenerated by doing good works (Titus 3:50)

Cannot be regenerated by reformation (Isa 64:6)

Cannot be regenerated by imitating Christ – Christ was pure

The Holy Spirit Assures Us

Two natures – old birth – children of the flesh
new birth – children of God

Satan would want us to doubt the reality of our salvation

Holy Spirit bears witness (Heb 10:15; Rom 8:16)

How to Become Born Again

1. Realize you are a sinner in God's eyes (Rom 3:10)

2. Realize that God loves you and sent His Son to die for you (I Peter 3:1)

3. Repent of your sins (a change of mind) (Luke 13:3; 18:13)

4. Come by faith and trust to Christ (Rom 6:23)

Say "yes" to Christ (John 3:16; Col 1:14)

Nichodemus and the serpent of brass on a pole (John 3)

Look beyond the serpent to God Himself

Look to Christ on the cross to God Himself

May seem foolish to the world (I Cor 1:21)