



# The Salvation of Man

*Adapted from FireBible Article: Regeneration: Spiritual Birth and Renewal by Danny Duvall*

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. A person receives Salvation by acknowledging their sin, repentance of sin toward God, and declaring faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Through this, a person stands justified before God by His grace and may also experience spiritual renewal (or “regeneration”) by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, a person becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life. The two evidences of Salvation are the inward evidence of salvation, which is witnessed to God by His Spirit; and the outward evidence seen by others of a life pursuing righteousness and holiness.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “The Salvation of Man,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#5> (Accessed August 17, 2017)

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The *Spiritual Birth and Renewal* article in the *FireBible* gives a deeper understanding of this truth.

**John 3:3 (ESV)** Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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There are several approaches to studying the salvation of man. One could study God’s plan of salvation, various aspects of the atonement or the finished work of Christ on the cross. However, in this study we will study what happens spiritually within the individual at the point of their salvation. We all know something changes. In this study of the salvation of man we will discover what changes.

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***Regeneration, or spiritual rebirth, is necessary to receive eternal life.***

**Titus 3:5 (ESV)** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

# 1. Regeneration is a re-creating and transformation of the person.

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)** Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Ephesians 4:23–24 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, **created** after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**John 3:6 (ESV)** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

a. Regeneration is impartation of eternal life (transfused) from God himself into the believer's heart.

**2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having

escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**1 John 5:11 (ESV)** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**b. Through this process the new believer becomes:**

- A **Child of God**

**Galatians 3:26 (ESV)** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

**John 1:12 (ESV)** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

- A **New Person**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Colossians 3:9–10 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- **Motivated** to be Godly

**Ephesians 4:24 (ESV)** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. **Regeneration is necessary because apart from Christ, all people, in their inherent natures are sinners, incapable of obeying and pleasing God.**

**Psalms 51:5 (ESV)** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

**Romans 8:7 (ESV)** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.

3. Regeneration comes to those who repent of their sin; turn to God (Matthew 3:2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near”) and who put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

4. Regeneration involves a transition from an old life of sin to a new life of obedience to Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 6:15 (ESV)** For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

**Colossians 3:10 (ESV)** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

a. Those who are truly born again are set free from sin's bondage.

**Romans 6:18 (ESV)** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

b. Those who are truly born again receive a spiritual desire and disposition to obey God and follow the leading of the Spirit.

**Romans 8:13 (ESV)** For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

c. Those who are born again will live righteous lives.

**1 John 2:29 (ESV)** If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

d. Those who are born again will love other believers.

**1 John 4:7 (ESV)** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

**1 John 3:14 (ESV)** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

e. Those who are born again avoid a life of sin.

**1 John 5:18 (ESV)** We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

f. Those who born again do not love the world.

**1 John 2:15 (ESV)** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

5. The life of the born-again believer fights habitual sin in their life by and through a sustained relationship with Christ and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

**John 15:4 (ESV)** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

**Romans 8:2 (ESV)** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

## GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read **John 1:3-11 (ESV)**, from your study notes:<sup>2</sup>

1. What does “born of water” mean?
2. How is the Holy Spirit like the wind?

Read the *FireBible* article: *Regeneration: Spiritual Birth and Renewal*. Answer the following:<sup>3</sup>

1. In your own words, what is *regeneration*?
2. When does a person become a child of God?  
(John 1:12)
3. When does a person begin to be entitled to eternal life with God? (John 3:16)

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<sup>2</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 221.

<sup>3</sup> Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 34.

4. What do we share and partake of at the new birth? (2 Peter 1:4)
5. Why is the new birth necessary?
6. What 3 steps must a person take to be born again?
7. At the new birth, a person turns from the old life of (*what?*), and to a new life of (*what?*).
8. What are some signs that show that a person has been born again?
9. Is a person who continues to sin born again? (1 John 3:9)
10. What is a condition for being cleansed from sin? (read 1 John 1:7)
11. What is a key to receiving grace, avoiding sinful habits, and bearing good fruit instead of bad fruit? (John 15:4)

12. What does the Bible say about a person who claims to be born again, but willingly follows the sinful ways of the world? (1 John 3:6-10)
  
13. Is it possible for those who have been born again to die spiritually, and lose their relationship with God? (Romans 8:13)
  
14. Will those who practice evil inherit God's kingdom? (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21)

**Comment:** Some, like Nicodemus, make the mistake of thinking all spiritual relationships are like physical relationships (see John 3:4-6). Physical death does not change who your father is. But spiritual death breaks the relationship between a person and (who?).