

**I. You Must Be Born Again**

- A. The term *regeneration* is synonymous with being born again. Our Lord used the phrase “born again,” recorded in John, the third chapter. In the dialogue recorded there, to whom was Jesus speaking? (Read John 3:1-3.)

How did the man come to Jesus? Why?

What does this tell us about people who are thinking about the Christian faith?

Did Jesus wait for him to ask a question before providing him with an answer?

Why do you suppose Jesus said what is recorded in 3:3?

- B. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 and Ezekiel 11:19 and comment on what they tell us about men prior to regeneration.

Read Jeremiah 13:23 and discuss what it explains regarding man’s inability to truly change his nature of his own accord.

- C. Returning to the third chapter of John, read John 3:15-21 and discuss what Jesus explains regarding those who do not believe in Him.

D. R.C. Sproul describes regeneration in his book, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*. He writes:

“Regeneration is the theological term used to describe rebirth. It refers to a new generating, a new genesis, a new beginning...the work of the Holy Spirit upon those who are spiritually dead...The Spirit recreates the human heart...In regeneration, God plants a desire for Himself in the human heart that otherwise would not be there.”

Does regeneration (being born again) occur before or after conversion?

When someone is referred to as a born-again Christian, what sort of person is being described?

E. If men must be born again in order to understand spiritual truth, is there any point in speaking about spiritual truth to unbelievers? (See Matthew 7:6 and Acts 17:16-32.)

F. For further discussion:

1. Can you remember a time in your life when spiritual truths that you now live by seemed like foolishness to you?
2. Is there anyone in your life now that seems to be incapable of understanding even the most basic and fundamental truths of Scripture? (for example, that the scriptures teach that all are sinners or the particulars of the gospel)
3. If men must be acted on by God the Holy Spirit (regenerated) in order to truly hear spiritual truths, what is the most important thing believers can do for the lost?
4. Does a better understanding of regeneration encourage or discourage you as you seek to understand redemption more thoroughly?
5. Is it necessary that a man be born again in order to understand the facts of the gospel? (that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day)