

Rebirth

It was Jesus who first declared that spiritual rebirth was an absolute necessity for entering the kingdom of God. Jesus said, “. . . Except a man be born again [from above], he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . ., he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Jesus uses the word except to signify a universal condition for seeing and entering the kingdom of God, rebirth. Without the rebirth, seeing or entering into God’s kingdom is impossible.

In theological terms the word regeneration is used to describe the rebirth. It refers to a new beginning. It is more than turning over a new leaf; it marks the beginning of a new life in a renewed person. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit upon those who are spiritually dead. The Holy Spirit recreates the human heart (the part of man that makes up his being), quickening it from spiritual death to spiritual life. People who have been regenerated are new creations. We formerly had no disposition, inclination, or desire for the things of God, but now the things of God are all important. Important, because we are a new creation.

In the Reformed position, regeneration precedes faith. Yet, they believe that regeneration brings new life. Now if that be true, that would mean, a sinner has the new life through regeneration, why does he need to believe if he has already been regenerated? I do not think we can put this in a chronological order; both regeneration and faith have to occur at the same moment for the rebirth to become a reality.

Scripture: King James Version: John 3:1-7; Romans 10:1-13; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7; I Peter 1:23.

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