



## Message Three: REGENERATION *Pastor Mike Chapman*

Today, we are going to look at regeneration. It may seem odd that we would devote such attention to a word that appears in the New Testament (KJV) only once in relationship to salvation...

*Titus 3:5, Not by works or righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

*He saved us not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. (NLT)*

Regeneration is the BIG WORD for the new birth.

### WHAT IS REGENERATION?

Regeneration is the supernatural creation of spiritual life in those who respond in faith to the call of the Gospel.

Regeneration confronts us with two unsettling facts.

1. We are confronted with our hopeless spiritual and moral condition apart from God's regenerating grace.

Ephesians 2:1-3, *In the past you were spiritually dead because of your sins...Yes, in the past you lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God. In the past all of us lived like them, trying to please our sinful selves and doing all the things our bodies and minds wanted.* (NCV)

1. We are confronted with the fact that regeneration is something done for us not something we do.

Ephesians 2:5, 8-9, *Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ...You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it.* (NCV)

## WHAT HAPPENS IN REGENERATION?

It's not about getting new **religion**; it's about getting new **life**.

1 John 5:12, *God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (NIV)

In the New Testament, life was seen on two levels:

1. **Biological** Life (Greek: *Bios*)
2. **Spiritual** Life (Greek: *Zoé*)

This is eternal life (John 3:16), abundant life (John 10:10), and life found in Jesus (John 1:4; 6:40).

It is **experiencing** the supernatural not just **affirming** it.

John 3:8, *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.* (NIV)

John 20:22, *He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.* (NIV)

It is a new **creation** not simply an **improvement** of the old.

2 Corinthians 5:17, *If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone; the new has come.* (NIV)

Ezekiel 36:26-27, *And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.* (NLT)

## WHY IS REGENERATION CRUCIAL?

Without the regeneration, we remain **outside** of God's Kingdom.

John 3:3-7, *Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit...You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' "* (NIV)

To miss regeneration is to miss God's purpose in this life and to miss God's hope for eternal life in his Kingdom.