

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Soteriology VI

Regeneration and Perseverance

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Regeneration

Definition

- ✓ “Regeneration is the act of God awakening spiritual life within us, bringing us from spiritual death to spiritual life” (Grudem, 702).

Assumptions

- ✓ Humans are in need of a transformation because of spiritual deadness, total depravity, and inability to know God

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Historical Views—Regeneration

- ✓ Self-actualized regeneration (Pelagians and Liberals)
- ✓ Baptismal regeneration (Catholics/Lutherans)
- ✓ Presumptive or Promissory regeneration (Covenant Reformed)
- ✓ Synergistic regeneration (Arminians)
- ✓ Work of God in response to faith (some Reformed Evangelicals)
- ✓ Work of God which enables saving faith (some Reformed Evangelicals)

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Regeneration in the Old Testament

- ✓ Deuteronomy 30:6—note the present-tense element to this
- ✓ Jeremiah 31:33—New Covenant promise
- ✓ Ezekiel 36:25–27—Future-tense
- ✓ **DEBATE:** OT saints regenerated?—Not in same sense as NT saints, but there is some sort of internal change (Ps 51)
 - ❖ **KEY DIFFERENCE:** Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

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Regeneration in the New Testament

- ✓ John 3:3—born again (Lit. “from above”)
 - ❖ New spiritual birth in contrast to physical
- ✓ John 3:5—“is born” is passive—something done to man, not by man
- ✓ Titus 3:5
- ✓ Water and Holy Spirit (Num 19:17–19; Isa 4:4; 32:15; 44:3; 55:1; Joel 2:28–29; Zech 13:1)
- ✓ John 1:13; 1 Peter 1:3, 23; Colossians 2:13; James 1:18

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Results of Regeneration

- ✓ A divine nature (2 Pet 1:4)
- ✓ A new self (Eph 4:24)
- ✓ A new creature (2 Cor 5:17)
- ✓ A new mind (1 Cor 2:16)
- ✓ A new heart (Rom 5:5)
- ✓ A new will to obey God (Rom 6:13)
- ✓ A circumcision of the heart (Col 2:11)

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Debate—Regeneration

- ✓ Acknowledge the mysterious nature of regeneration (John 3:8)
- ✓ Simultaneous view—regeneration and faith
- ✓ Faith comes first view
- ✓ Regeneration comes first view (John 3:5; 6:44; Acts 16:14)

IMPORTANT:
God starts the work

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Summary—Regeneration

- ✓ Not a tangible experience with five senses
- ✓ Supernatural occurrence
- ✓ Results in a divine nature
- ✓ Involves counteracting effects of sin
- ✓ Beginning of a lifetime of spiritual growth—sanctification

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Doctrine of Perseverance

Historical Views

- ✓ Salvation can be forfeited by mortal sin (Roman Catholics)
- ✓ Can be lost by walking after the flesh (Many Arminians)
- ✓ Elect believers persevere and non-elect believers fall away (some Lutherans)
- ✓ God preserves true Christians so that they persevere to the end (Reformed)

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God's Initiative

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| ✓ Psalm 37:24 | ✓ Romans 8:29–30 |
| ✓ Psalm 37:28 | ✓ Romans 8:35–39 |
| ✓ Jeremiah 32:40 | ✓ Philippians 1:6 |
| ✓ John 3:15–16, 36; 5:24; 6:40, 47;
1 John 5:11–13) | ✓ 2 Corinthians 1:21 |
| ✓ Eternal life must be eternal | ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:8 |
| ✓ John 3:18 | ✓ Holy Spirit as guarantee (2 Cor
1:22; Eph 1:14) |
| ✓ John 6:39–40 | ✓ 1 Peter 1:3–5 |
| ✓ John 10:27–29 | ✓ 1 John 5:18 |
| ✓ John 17:6–19 | ✓ Jude 24 |
| ✓ Hebrews 7:24–25 | |

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Christian's Role

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| ✓ Matthew 10:22 | ✓ HEBREWS 3:14 |
| ✓ 1 Corinthians 10:12 | |
| ✓ 1 Corinthians 16:13 | |
| ✓ 2 Corinthians 1:24 | |
| ✓ Philippians 2:12–13 | |
| ✓ 2 Timothy 2:12–13 | |
| ✓ 2 Timothy 4:7 | |
| ✓ Hebrews 10:36 | |
| ✓ Revelation 2:10 | |

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"Backsliding" and Falling Away

- ✓ Backsliding—David, Solomon, Peter
- ✓ Falling away from the faith
 - ❖ **REASON:** Never truly converted—no regeneration
 - Judas (see John 6:70; 13:10–11)
 - 1 John 2:19
 - 2 John 9
 - 2 Peter 2
 - Apostate teachers (Jude 4, 8, 10–13, 16–19)

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Hebrews Warnings

Most debated: Hebrews 6:4–6

- ✓ **View 1:** True believers can fall away
- ✓ **View 2:** This is hypothetical apostasy
- ✓ **View 3:** Not truly saved—they know the truth but have not applied it to their lives

See also Hebrews 10:26–29

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