

## HOLY SPIRIT: REGENERATION

As a child attending a Catholic school, I was taught that baptism washes away original sin. After that the sacraments are available to work out my salvation through the church. I believed faithfulness to the sacraments of the church would assure me of heaven. When I was 17 years old, I heard the Gospel for the first time, and I received a new life in Christ. Regeneration is that new life. In order to enter the kingdom of God, one must be “born again” (John 3:3). That is the same as regeneration. Regeneration is being born of God and receiving His divine nature. We receive God’s nature the moment we believe in Christ for salvation. Regeneration is the distinguishing feature of a believer. The new birth places one into God’s everlasting family. Because we are born again we will live as long as God lives. Eternal life is a beginning without an ending. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit imparts eternal life and “bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God...” (Romans 8:16). A Christian is considered “alive from the dead” (Romans 6:13), and a “new creation” (II Corinthians 5:17). When we are born again, the old nature is not eradicated. We still sin, although we have been “set free” from the penalty of sin (Romans 6:18). “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life” (Romans 6:22). The Holy Spirit sets us apart to God and holiness. We will never be perfect in this life, but we change in our attitudes toward sin, and we sin less as we trust the power of the regenerating power of Holy Spirit in us.