



# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture

TOPIC 2 – THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

LESSON 61 – THE TRINITY: THE HOLY SPIRIT – SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION  
BIBLICAL DOCTRINE (JOHN MACARTHUR), PGS. 349-379

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# Salvation

- ▶ As an act of grace, the Triune God purposed (determined) to save a remnant of His creation through the atoning work of God the Son. Scripture teaches, however, that the saving benefits accomplished by Christ on the cross are applied to believers through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Salvation was Decreed by the Father, Accomplished by the Son, and is Applied by the Spirit.
- ▶ Salvation includes and involves the following order of events (Ordo Salutis – covered in our series [The Doctrine of Salvation](#): Election/Predestination, Atonement, Outward Call, Inward Call, Regeneration (the new birth), Conversion (repentance and faith), Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, Perseverance/Preservation, and Glorification.

# Regeneration (the new birth)

- ▶ Every human being who has ever lived, born on the natural progression of people beginning with Adam, is born in spiritual deadness.
- ▶ Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- ▶ Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—  
...19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...
- ▶ John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."



# Regeneration (the new birth)

- ▶ Those who are chosen and called to salvation are given by God new spiritual life as they were previously dead in their sins.
- ▶ Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- ▶ Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- ▶ Romans 8:10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

# Regeneration (the new birth)

- ▶ In the act of regeneration, the Holy Spirit has brought conviction (convincing) of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11), and he provides assurance of salvation afterward by bearing witness to the believer of salvation's reality (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:24).
- ▶ Scripture presents regeneration using 4 different images: 1) Spiritual Birth, 2) Spiritual Cleansing, 3) Spiritual Creation, and 4) Spiritual Resurrection.
- ▶ Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

# Regeneration (the new birth)

- ▶ Spiritual Birth: The term “regeneration” means literally “to be born again.”
- ▶ Spiritual Cleansing: Paul refers to our being washed clean because we are filthy with sin.
- ▶ Spiritual Creation: We are renewed, that is made “new again.” This refers to being new in quality, not new in time. We are given a new nature (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:24) and are “renewed in the inner man.
- ▶ Spiritual Resurrection: John 6:63 and 2 Cor. 3:6 tell us that the Spirit gives life to those who were spiritually dead in sin.

# Regeneration (the new birth)

- ▶ Salvation comes by God's will and not by man's will (John 1:13; Eph. 2:8-10; James 1:18).
- ▶ God's Spirit by use of God's Word works the work of regeneration (John 3:3, 5-7; Gal. 3:2-3, 14; 1 Thess. 1:5; Titus 3:5; Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 2:13; 1 Peter 1:23).
- ▶ Therefore, regeneration involves the Triune God instantaneously granting new, everlasting life, evidenced by those people embracing Christ through repentance and faith.

# Spiritual Enhancements

- ▶ After regeneration, at least 6 significant spiritual enhancements involving the Spirit occur instantaneously: 1) Spirit baptism, 2) Sealing, 3) Indwelling, 4) Filling, 5) Spiritual fruit, and 6) Spiritual gifts.
- ▶ 1) Spirit baptism is the work of the Holy Spirit to “immerse” those regenerated into Christ, making us part of His body (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12).
- ▶ Spirit baptism speaks of our inseparable union with Christ, applies without exception to every true Christian, and is not something to be sought after, prayed for, or agonized over. If you are a believer, you must have been baptized by the Spirit or you are not joined with Christ and therefore not a Christian.



# Spiritual Enhancements

- ▶ 2) Sealing – the Spirit of promise is given by God as His guarantee of a believer's future inheritance in glory (Eph. 1:13). This points to God's ownership of us, having purchased us (ransomed) with the blood of His Son (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
- ▶ 3) Indwelling – all true believers have the Spirit dwelling in them (Rom. 8:9, 11; Jude 19; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Eph. 2:22; 2 Tim. 1:14). This indwelling is inclusive of all believers, initiated at salvation, permanent, and empowers us to obedient living.
- ▶ 4) Filling – this is being yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-21). It is not a dramatic experience of suddenly being energized or indicative of an advanced state of Christianity. Filling is not a matter of how much of the Spirit you have been given, but how much of you is yielded to the Spirit.

# Spiritual Enhancements

- ▶ 5) Spiritual Fruit – Jesus taught that we are known by the fruit produced in our lives (Matt. 7:16-20; 12:33). The fruit born through us by the Spirit is in contrast to the works of our flesh (Gal. 5:19-26). Types of fruit include attitudes (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9), actions (Col. 1:10; Titus 3:8, 14), worship (Heb. 13:15), gospel telling (Rom. 1:13; Col. 1:5-6), truth telling (Eph. 5:9; 1 John 4:2), and abundant, cheerful giving (Rom. 15:26-28; 2 Cor. 9:6-8, 13; Phil. 4:17).
- ▶ 6) Spiritual Gifts – God the Father has planned for and appointed the gifts (1 Cor. 12:18, 28). God the Son has provided these gifts (Eph. 4:7-8, 11). God the Spirit empowers believers to use these gifts (1 Cor. 12:11).

# Sanctification

- ▶ In salvation, we are saved (justification/conversion/adoption), we are being saved (sanctification), and we will be saved (glorification).
- ▶ As disciples we are called to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16) and this holiness is applied and achieved as we walk in the power of the Spirit in our daily lives.
- ▶ Sanctification is by grace alone (as is all of salvation), but involves progressing in that grace as we grow and mature, being more and more like Christ.
- ▶ We are sanctified by the Spirit through the understanding, application of, and obedience to the Word of God (John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; 2 Thess. 2:13).

# Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 62 - The Trinity: The Holy Spirit – Inspiring and Illuminating Scripture