

All Adult Sunday School  
June 18, 2023  
Jeremy S Weaver

### Chapter 9: How the Holy Spirit Prepares a Soul for the Work of Regeneration

1. It is IMPOSSIBLE for us to regenerate ourselves, but this does not excuse us from our spiritual responsibility.
2. The work begins through the PREACHING of the WORD OF GOD
3. Two things begin to happen in the person who is being prepared: 1) ILLUMINATION, and 2) CONVICTION OF SIN.
  - a. Illumination: Enlightening the understanding and enabling the person to know and to understand spiritually the spiritual truths revealed.
    - i. The GOSPEL is understood as true and God's way of RIGHTOUSNESS.
    - ii. Illumination is not REGENERATION.
    - iii. Illumination PREPARES the soul for regeneration.
  - b. Conviction of sin: The soul begins to feel a *disturbing* sense of its guilt as it is brought to face the righteous demands of God's law.
    - i. Usually, DESPAIR follows and may lead to a great change in attitude and great reform of life as an attempt to relieve the despair.
4. There is an illumination which does not lead to SALVATION.
  - a. Does not change the WILL.
  - b. No DELIGHT in God or spiritual things.
  - c. No spiritual insight into the glory of God's GRACE.
  - d. Does not free you from DEAD WORKS to serve God.
  - e. Does not tear out EVIL desires and fill the heart with HEAVENLY joys.
  - f. The three defects of this path along with the outcome:
    - i. It allows the sins of ignorance [of actual righteousness] to continue. Translation: they remain in their sinful deception of relying on understanding of illumination and/or their own natural works and reform.
    - ii. The reformation of life does not get rid of all known sins, and leads to a flagrant pursuit of self-righteousness.
    - iii. Finally, it fades and leaves people as spiritual skeletons.

### Chapter 10: How the Mind is Corrupted and Depraved by Sin & Chapter 11: Natural and Spiritual Death Compared

1. All mankind can be divided into two groups: 1) REGENERATE or 2) UNREGENERATE.

2. The unregenerate live in a state of a corrupt and depraved mind the Scripture calls BLINDNESS and DARKNESS.
3. Spiritual death is a loss of spiritual life [originally given to Adam] ENABLING us to live to God.
4. Spiritual life [post Christ] is a new life in Christ, whereby God reveals himself in Christ and affords new duties of obedience; the same kind as were required from Adam.
  - a. Adam was to PLEASE and GLORIFY God.
  - b. Adam would have entered the FULL enjoyment of God as the height of happiness and the highest reward.

Darkness of Mind / Spiritual Death	Lightness of Mind / Spiritual Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darkness lies on all men until God <u>CREATES</u> light in them. (Default)</li> <li>• Darkness relating to having nothing to enlighten is <u>OUTWARD</u> darkness.</li> <li>• Darkness relating to corruption concerning spiritual things is <u>INWARD</u> darkness.</li> <li>• Man’s mind is depraved as to natural things including <u>CIVIL</u>, <u>POLITICAL</u>, and <u>MORAL</u>, as well. (Common grace)</li> <li>• The most brilliant natural mind is still <u>IMPOSSIBLE</u> to be saved apart from the <u>HOLY SPIRIT’S</u> work.</li> <li>• Blindness inclines us to seek that which does not <u>SATISFY</u>. (Deception of idolatry)</li> <li>• Futility of the mind leads to <u>INSTABILITY</u> in holy duties of prayer, meditation, and word.</li> <li>• Darkness of mind causes <u>BACKSLIDING</u> in believers.</li> <li>• Futility of the mind deceives believers into providing for the <u>FLESH, LUSTS</u>, and leads to <u>SELF INDULGENCE</u>.</li> <li>• The <u>NATURAL</u> man trusts in reasoning and sees no need for <u>SPIRITUAL</u> help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unregenerate move from spiritual death to life through <u>REGENERATION</u> which began with illumination and conviction of sin.</li> <li>• The unregenerate mind has a bias against the <u>GOSPEL</u> until the gospel reveals things concerning the love and will of God in Christ Jesus.</li> <li>• Preachers must preach <u>INABILITY</u>.</li> <li>• God is the <u>ORIGIN</u> of all life, including spiritual life.</li> <li>• A body passively receives <u>NATURAL</u> life, the soul passively receives <u>SPIRITUAL</u> life and resurrection.</li> <li>• Spiritual life is deposited in Christ as <u>MEDIATOR</u> from which we get life.</li> <li>• It is imparted by the <u>HOLY SPIRIT</u>, and we are joined to life in Christ.</li> <li>• To say that we are able by our own efforts to think <u>GOOD</u> thoughts or give God obedience before regeneration, is to overthrow the <u>GOSPEL</u>.</li> </ul>

*“I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

# The Holy Spirit

## Chapters 9-11

By: John Own

# Overview

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Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
How the Holy Spirit Prepares a Soul for His Work of Regeneration	How the Mind is Corrupted and Depraved by Sin	Natural and Spiritual Death Compared
Key teaching of John Owen about the “plowing” of the Holy Spirit to make an unbeliever ready to be regenerated.	A chapter of comparing and contrasting lightness vs darkness, or blindness vs sight.	A chapter of comparing and contrasting death vs life, spiritually and naturally.

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Translation: they remain in their sinful deception of relying on understanding of illumination and/or their own natural works and reform.
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- Blindness inclines us to seek that which does not SATISFY. (Deception of idolatry)
- Futility of the mind leads to INSTABILITY in holy duties of prayer, meditation, and word.

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- Darkness of mind causes BACKSLIDING in believers.
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- The NATURAL man trusts in reasoning and sees no need for SPIRITUAL help.

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## Lightness of Mind / Spiritual Life

- Unregenerate move from spiritual death to life through REGENERATION which began with illumination and conviction of sin.
- The unregenerate mind has a bias against the GOSPEL until the gospel reveals things concerning the love and will of God in Christ Jesus.
- Preachers must preach INABILITY.

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- Spiritual life is deposited in Christ as MEDIATOR from which we get life.
- It is imparted by the HOLY SPIRIT, and we are joined to life in Christ.
- To say that we are able by our own efforts to think GOOD thoughts or give God obedience before regeneration, is to overthrow the GOSPEL.

# Conclusion

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