

Building the *CORE* Series
Regeneration: A Core Gift from God
Titus 3:3-8
October 31–Nov. 1, 2009
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Our physical bodies are made up of several core muscles which keep our bodies functioning properly if we keep them exercised and in shape. Our spiritual walk also has several *CORE* beliefs we need to exercise in order to glorify God. During this sermon series, the *CORE* beliefs we will focus on are the Word of God, the existence of God, how we are saved, set apart and glorified, the Trinity, and Jesus Christ as prophet, priest and king. It is our hope that God will use this series to strengthen us individually and as a church. Today, we will look at Regeneration – How God saves us: A Core Gift.

Regeneration is the supernatural imparting of spiritual life to believers in Christ. Regeneration is the implanting of new spiritual life in our soul. (D.Lloyd Martyn Jones).

Regeneration is new birth. It is the beginning of a process of growth which continues throughout one's lifetime. This process of spiritual maturation is sanctification. (Erickson, 945)

Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ 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 by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the

hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.

I. Our lives need _____ . (Titus 3:3)

Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

A. Man's _____ desperately needs regeneration.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Ephesians 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Our Response: Ask God to show us the depravity of our heart and ask God for His forgiveness and cleansing.

B. God's _____ nature requires man's regeneration.

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are *too pure* to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why

are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Psalm 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is *holy*. (Isaiah 6:3).

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is *holy*: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Our Response: Pray to God to show you His righteousness, purity and holiness. Show our hearts His glory.

II. Regeneration is an act of the _____.
(Titus 3:4-6)

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 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 by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

John 1:13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Luke 19:9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

III. Regeneration includes a huge sense of _____.
(Titus 3:5-7)

Titus 3:5 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 by the Holy Spirit,

Washing of regeneration- refers to an inner purification by which God provides spiritual life. It changes our standing before God from guilty to righteous.

Titus 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Justified means we have been declared not guilty by our heavenly father.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

IV. Regeneration is evidenced by a new _____.

Titus 3:8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager *to do* what is good.

Not saved by good works but saved for good works. (Eph. 2:9)

Eph. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We know we are regenerated by God because we do the following:

Believe in Jesus as the Son of God I John 4:1-2,
I Cor. 12:3

We want to obey God... it's a joy not a burden I John 2:3, 2:29

We have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts I John 3:24

We love the brothers I John 3:14

