

# WHAT IS REGENERATION?

by Matthew Barrett

**TO THE READER:** A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Man, before the Fall, had the “free will” to stay with God or rebel against Him. What ability does a person have now as a result of the Fall? (5-6)
2. When the Gospel is shared with a person, can the Gospel message be rejected? (6-8)
3. Read Mark 2:1-12 and 3:1-6. Describe the different reactions to what Jesus did and taught. After seeing these miracles with their own eyes, why did some still reject Jesus? (8-14)
4. Read John 6:22-65, noting especially verses 37, 44, and 65. If you were standing there listening to Jesus, what would you have thought He was saying? (12-13)
5. What was the result of Jesus teaching upon many of His disciples in John 6:66-69?
6. Read Ezekiel 11:19-21. Does God do what He says here based on what the people did? Or, did He do in them what they were incapable of doing themselves? (14-18)

7. Read John 3:1-8, and John 1:12-13, noting especially how vs.13 explains how vs.12 can happen. From what Jesus says to Nicodemus, contrasting natural birth with spiritual birth, what part does Jesus give to the Spirit and what to Nicodemus? (18-25)
  
8. Now read James 1:16-18. What do these verses teach us about salvation? (25)
  
9. What does 1 Peter 1:3-5 say about our part in salvation? How long does it say it will last? (25-27)
  
10. There are three words that keep appearing. How would you define each of the following? (27-31)
  - Justice** – getting
  
  - Mercy** – not getting
  
  - Grace** – getting
  
11. In light of all these verses, God is the One who changes a person's heart. Therefore, why do we need to do any evangelism? (31-36)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

## APPLICATION

Throughout this study there has been the emphasis that our salvation rests in God and Him alone. There is **nothing** we can do. But there is one thing! We can stop right now and thank Him for doing what we could never do for ourselves.

## For Further Study

*Salvation by Grace: The Case for Effectual Calling and Regeneration*, Matthew Barrett. P&R, 2013.  
*Saved by Grace: The Glory of Salvation in Ephesians 2*, Richard D. Phillips. P&R, 2009.

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