

THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part IV

“What is this born again stuff about? Regeneration”

Reference: **John 3:1-10**

Pastor Larry Webb

Just what is this born again stuff about? That’s the question we want to answer in this message and we’re going to answer that question from **John chapter three**.

Question: why does someone need to be born again (i.e. regenerated)?

Answer: because we are born _____ the first time (depraved).

PRINCIPLE: total depravity doesn’t mean that man in his pre-salvation state is as _____ as he could be (i.e. utter depravity); but, man in his pre-salvation condition is as _____ as he could be (i.e. total depravity)

The Bible uses graphic language to describe man’s spiritual condition before salvation:

Man has a _____ heart (**Jeremiah 17:9**)

Man is under sin (**Galatians 3:22**)

Man is _____ in a spiritual sense (**Ephesians 2:1 and 5**)

Man is condemned (**John 3:36**)

Man is subject to _____ (**I John 5:19**)

Man is lost (**Luke chapter fifteen**)

Man is _____ in sin (**Psalms 51:5**)

Man is a slave to sin (**Romans 6:20**)

Man cannot _____ spiritual things (**I Corinthians 2:14**)

Man is defiled from the inside out (**Mark 7:21-23**)

Man is a _____ of (potential) wrath (**Ephesians 2:3**)

Man falls short of divine perfection (**Romans 3:23**)

Jesus mentions a specific formula for regeneration in **verse five**

“*Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’*”

This is the formula: **Regeneration** (rebirth or spiritual birth) =
_____ + **Holy Spirit**

Three common opinions as to what this water means:

One...this water is a reference to water _____

Two... this water refers to the _____ that surrounds the unborn fetus inside a mother’s uterus

Three...this water is a reference to spiritual cleansing through the _____ (i.e. Scripture)

Water has three basic symbolic meanings in Scripture:

_____ – Reference: **Genesis 7:1-24**

The _____ – Reference: **John 7:37-39**

The _____ (i.e. written word - Scripture)

References: **John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5** and **I Peter 1:23** (See screen)

Regeneration at someone’s salvation does two basic things:

- Someone is made _____ in a spiritual sense
Reference: **Ephesians 2:1 and 5** (see screen)
- Someone is made a _____ of God and a member of His divine family
Reference: **John 1:11-13** (see screen)