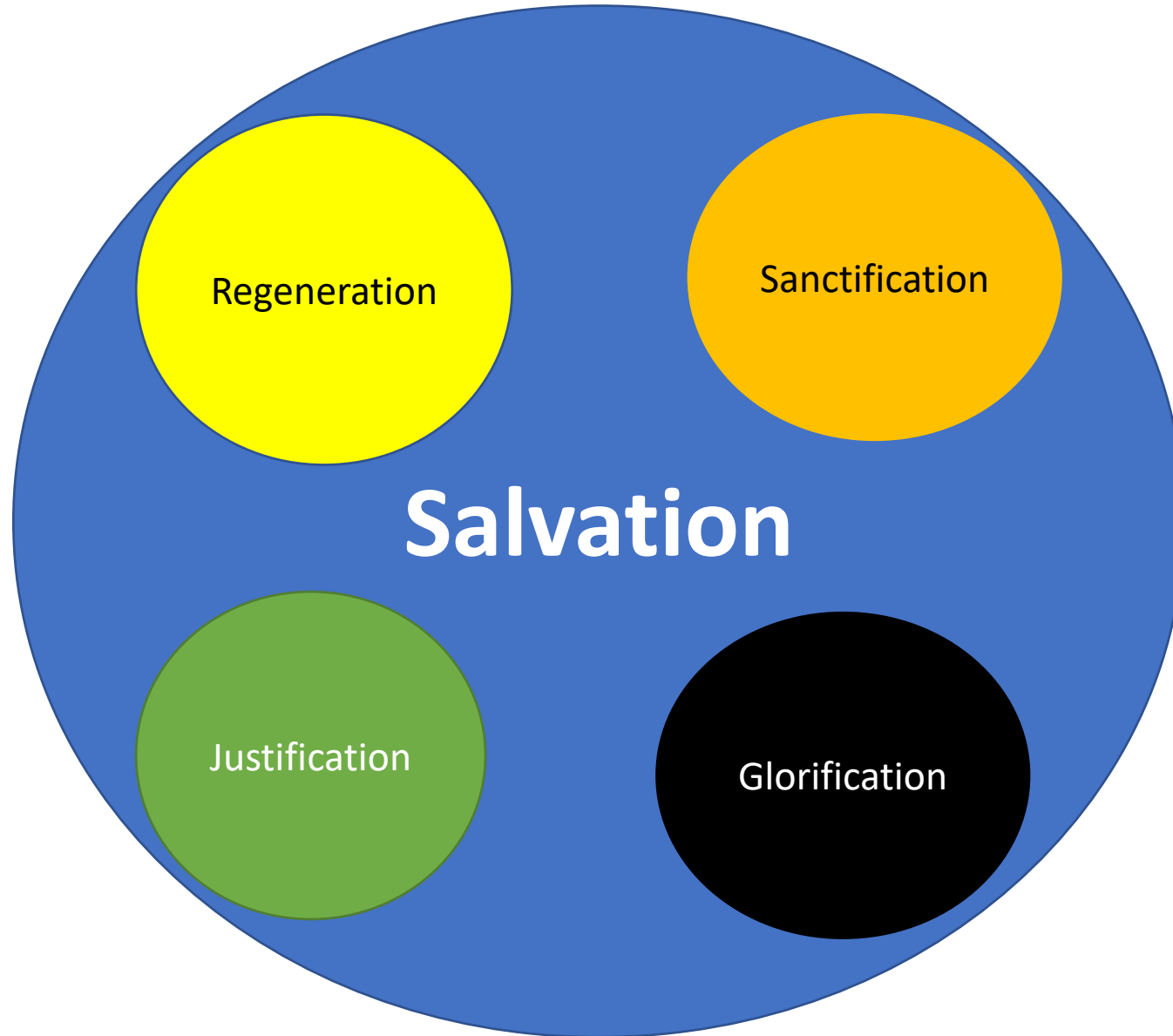


# Decisional Regeneration

# What is Regeneration?

- According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, to be regenerated is:
  - to be re-born;
  - brought again into existence;
  - formed anew.
- Another phrase for regeneration would be “born again.”
- In other words, men/women are spiritually dead, but God intervenes and makes that man spiritually alive.

# ***Regeneration and Salvation are related but different***



# Why do we need to be reborn/regenerated?

Death is separation.

- **Physical death** is the separation of the soul from the body.
- **Spiritual death**, which is of greater significance, is the separation of the soul from God.

# Why do we need to be regenerated?

**Physical death** is the separation of the soul from the body.

**Spiritual death**, which is of greater significance, is the separation of the soul from God.

- In **Genesis 2:17**, God tells Adam that in the day he eats of the forbidden fruit he will “surely die.”
- Adam’s does not physically die that day. SO, God was referring to something else.
- God had another type of death in mind—*spiritual death*.

This separation from God is exactly what we see in **Genesis 3:8**. When Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord, they “hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God.” The fellowship had been broken. They were spiritually dead.

# Why do we need to be regenerated?

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually and plunged all of his descendants into sin and spiritual death.

- Because sin and death passed upon all men, all are therefore born spiritually dead.

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned  
Romans 5:12

# Why do we need to be regenerated?

Because Jesus said so.

Speaking with Nicodemus, Jesus said “**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” (John 3:3).

- Nicodemus struggled to understand what Jesus meant. “**How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?**” (John 3:4).
- Nicodemus failed to see that Jesus was using a human metaphor (birth) to describe a spiritual reality.

# Prior to being reborn/regenerated, what is our condition?

## ***How dead is dead?***

The result of this spiritual death is that man in this state is **incapable of**:

- Being righteous (Rom 3:10).
- Hearing God's words (Joh 8:43,47)
- Understanding the gospel/spiritual things (Rom 3:11 c/w 1Co 1:18; 1Co 2:14).
- Believing in Jesus (Joh 10:26 c/w John 10:28).
- Seeking God (Rom 3:11); Doing good (Rom 3:12); Fearing God (Rom 3:18).
- Being subject to the law of God (Rom 8:7).
- Pleasing God (Rom 8:8)



# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

<sup>10</sup> As it is written, **There is none righteous**, no, not one:

<sup>11</sup> **There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

<sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; **there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

<sup>13</sup> Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

<sup>14</sup> Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

<sup>15</sup> Their feet are swift to shed blood:

<sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways:

<sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known:

<sup>18</sup> **There is no fear of God before their eyes**

- Incapable of being righteous (Rom 3:10).
- Incapable of understanding the gospel/spiritual things (Rom 3:11)
- Incapable of seeking God (Rom 3:11);
- Doing good (Rom 3:12);
- Fearing God (Rom 3:18).

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

- Incapable hearing God's words (Joh 8:43,47)

<sup>43</sup> Why do ye not understand my speech? **even because ye cannot hear my word.** <sup>44</sup> **Ye are of your father the devil,** and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

- Incapable of understanding the gospel or spiritual things

<sup>18</sup> For the preaching of the cross is **to them that perish** foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

<sup>14</sup> But the **natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

- Incapable of believing in Jesus (Joh 10:26 c/w John 10:28).

<sup>26</sup> But **ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep**, as I said unto you. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <sup>28</sup> **And I give unto them eternal life**; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

- Incapable of Being subject to the law of God (Rom 8:7).
- Incapable of pleasing God (Rom 8:8)

<sup>7</sup> Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

<sup>8</sup> So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

**Man has a heart of stone.**

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I **will take the stony heart out of their flesh**, and will give them an heart of flesh:

**Ezekial 11:19**

# Prior to being born of the Spirit, what is our condition?

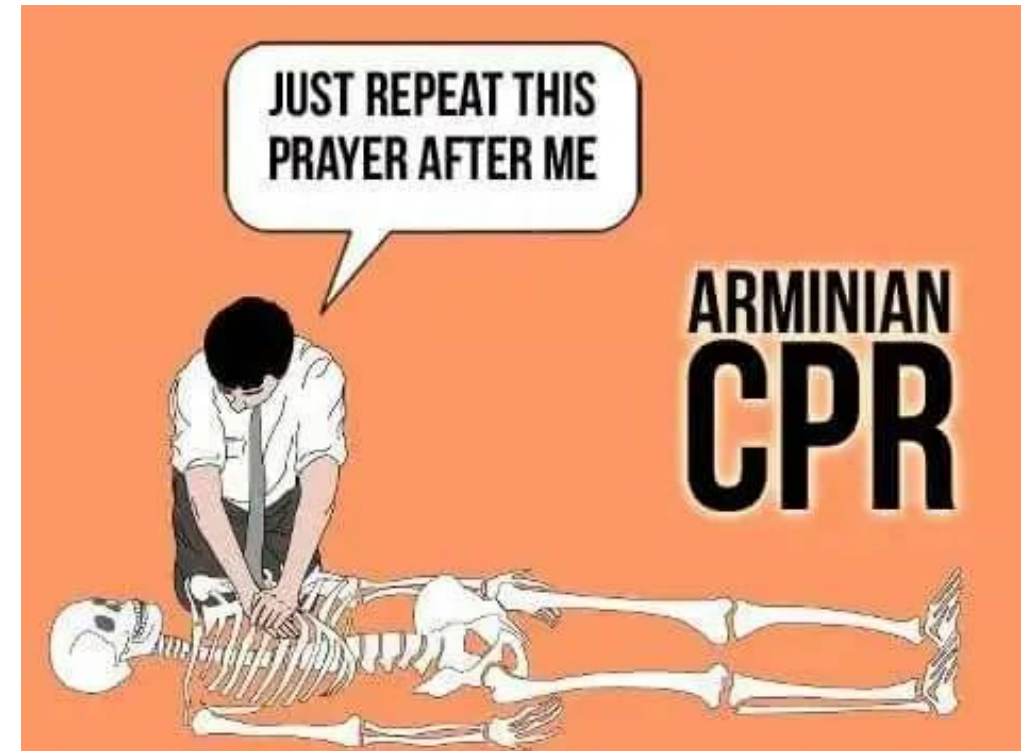
## Man is dead in his sins.

Being spiritually dead, man cannot save himself nor will he desire to save himself. Man is dead in sin.

- How can a dead man change his heart? He's dead.
- He can do nothing without God.

And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**

Ephesians 2:1





# Quickening

## What is the Quickening taught in scripture?

When a sinner is brought from his condition in Adam, from being dead in trespasses and in sins, he is *quickened* into eternal life by the life-giving voice of God. That instantaneous action restores one to the creator and imparts God's spirit. Referred to by many terms, most commonly the process is called

## Regeneration, or The New Birth

**A new nature is placed beside the old.**



This quickening work is detailed in the scriptures below. It is solely and exclusively the work of God. Not only can man not help in the process (he's dead in his fallen condition), his nature would not even allow him the ability to make a good choice in the matter. Man is passive in being born again and although the change is immediate, forever and irreversible, man doesn't realize the change for some time. John 3:8 equates the new birth with the natural birth and the evidence of wind.



# The Gospel

as glorious as it is, plays no part in the quickening process. Nor does the preached word. Mortal man does not participate as the phrase “born from above” should illustrate. At some later date, the gospel will help the new man, the new creature in Christ, understand what’s happened to him. And if he hears a true gospel, he’ll respond by giving God the glory and praise for his new birth. He’ll understand as in his natural birth, he didn’t select his parents or participate in that action, and that all honor and glory must go to the creator.

**The Gospel reveals the new birth, but does not bring it about.**



# Quickeneth

Jhn 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Eph 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Eph 2:5 *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

1Pe 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

Jhn 6:37 *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

Jhn 5:21 *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

Rom 4:17 *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

Col 2:13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

## quickening

Jhn 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

# Quickening, made alive, regeneration.



# An Old Testament metaphor

And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: **“Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.”**”

Ezekiel 37:3-5



**ARMINIAN**

**WAITING TO EXERCISE HIS  
FREEWILL TO CHOOSE GOD**

# A New Testament metaphor

In **John 11**, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Take a moment to realize that Lazarus is dead.

- He can do nothing on his own. He's dead!
- He can't wake himself up.
- He can't snap out of it.
- He can't see the light.
- He won't obey God.

The only thing that is going on in Lazarus at the moment is death.

# A New Testament metaphor

In verse 4 Jesus says, “this sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God.”

- This is all for God’s glory. Lazarus is dead, but out of His love and His grace (unmerited favor) Jesus makes him alive.

Now Lazarus is responsive to the voice of Christ. Jesus says, “Lazarus, come forth.” Jesus spoke life into Lazarus. Lazarus who was once dead was made alive. By the power of God alone his dead heart started to beat.

- A dead man was made alive and could now obey Jesus.
- Lazarus was blind and could not see, but through Christ he was able to see.

That is biblical regeneration!

# Regeneration is not a work of man but God alone

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Ezekiel 11:19

We see the regenerative work of God in this chapter. Notice that God is not teaching works. Notice that God is not saying, “you have to obey to be saved.” He’s teaching regeneration. He says, “**I will remove their heart of stone.**”

- It’s not something He is trying to do.
- It’s not something He is working on.

They will no longer have a heart of stone because God clearly says, “I will remove their heart of stone.” God is going to give the believer a new heart.

# Regeneration is not a work of man but God alone

The imagery of birth conveys this point. In birth a new life comes into this world. But it is silly to think that the infant deserves the credit. No, the infant is passive. Much more so in spiritual birth. The new birth is the work of God and God alone; the sinner is passive, being spiritually lifeless.

Again in Ezekiel 36, and slightly change metaphors, one will notice that when Ezekiel describes the Spirit's regenerating work, he says the sinner's "heart of stone" must be removed and replaced with a "[heart of flesh](#)," one that is not dead but alive (36:26). Only the Spirit can perform such a surgery on the unregenerate.



# Monergism or Synergism?

To say, then, that regeneration is a synergistic act, one in which God and the sinner must cooperate with one another, one in which the sinner can ultimately conquer God's grace, is to give far too much credibility to the sinner's ability. He is dead

# Monergism or Synergism?

Synergism not only conditions God's grace on the sinner's will but fails to remember that the sinner is incapable of cooperating in the first place.

- The unregenerate sinner is not merely injured and in need of assisting grace; no, he is spiritually lifeless.
- He is not a man on the verge of drowning in the ocean merely in need of Jesus to throw him a life preserver. Rather, he has drowned and lay dead at the bottom of the ocean. Needed, then, is a resurrection.

This is the way Paul speaks to the Ephesians: “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;.... 4 God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)” (Eph. 2:1, 4–5).

# Regeneration precedes faith

The focus is on God's will not man's will

## I Peter 1

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy **hath begotten us again** unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

# Regeneration precedes faith

The focus is on God's will not man's will

## I John 5

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ **is born** of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that **is begotten** of him.

John does not say that everyone who believes will then be born of God but that everyone who believes “has been born of God”

# Regeneration precedes faith

The focus is on God's will not man's will

## Titus 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration**, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

# Regeneration precedes faith

The focus is on God's will not man's will

**2 Cor 5:17-18**

”

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

# Regeneration precedes faith

The focus is on God's will not man's will

**John 5:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

<sup>25</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John does not say that everyone who believes will then be born of God but that everyone who believes “has been born of God”

# Regeneration precedes faith which is a gift of God

Furthermore, even when we speak of faith, we cannot forget that it is a gift of God (see Acts 13:48; Gal 5:5; Phil. 1:29).

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed

Acts 13:48-50



# Regeneration precedes faith which is a gift of God

Furthermore, even when we speak of faith, we cannot forget that it is a gift of God (see Acts 13:48-50; Gal 5:5; Phil. 1:29).

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,....

Gal 5:5

# Regeneration precedes faith which is a gift of God

Furthermore, even when we speak of faith, we cannot forget that it is a gift of God (see Acts 13:48-50; Gal 5:5; Phil. 1:29).

29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Phil 1:29

**And You Has He Made Alive  
Who Were Dead In Trespasses And Sins**



**EPHESIANS 2:1**