When Loves Comes to Town
PT 8 Know > Hope
Troy Knight

Key Scripture:

1 John 5:11–13 (NLT)
11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.
13 I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

Romans 4:5–8 (NLT)
5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners. 6 David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

7 "Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sins are put out of sight.
8 Yes, what joy for those
whose record the LORD has
cleared of sin."

TALK IT OVER

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- "My God is neither Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, or Christian. He is a God for all people." How would you reply to that statement?

Start sharing. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- Drew Faust said, "Truth is an aspiration, not a possession." Agree or disagree and why?
- Do you ever have doubts about your salvation? What gives you doubts?
- **Read 1 John 5:11-12.** What did John mean by eternal life? How do we obtain that life?
- What did John mean by the phrase, "Whoever has the Son?" How does a person have the Son?
- **Read 1 John 5:13.** What risk did God take by promising assurance of salvation on the front end? If you were God, would you have done that?
- Do some people use verses like **Romans 4:5-8** as a license to sin?
- Why does God want us to have assurance of salvation? Do you have that assurance?
- What does it mean to live the Christian life out of gratitude vs duty? How do you live your Christian life?
- How does the Holy Spirit give us assurance of salvation and also the motivation to obey God?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Gain assurance because your salvation is secure.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- We praise you God, that you are a merciful Father, full of grace. We confess that we are sinners and can only be counted as righteous, as one of your children, by having faith in Christ. Thank you for sending Him, so that we can know we are yours, and that we can have life. Amen.

Question: "What is regeneration according to the Bible?"

Answer: Another word for *regeneration* is *rebirth*, related to the biblical phrase "born again." Our rebirth is distinguished from our first birth, when we were conceived physically and inherited our sin nature. The new birth is a spiritual, holy, and heavenly birth that results in our being made alive spiritually. Man in his natural state is "dead in trespasses and sins" until he is "made alive" (regenerated) by Christ. This happens when he places his faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:1).

Regeneration is a radical change. Just as our physical birth resulted in a new individual entering the earthly realm, our spiritual birth results in a new person entering the heavenly realm (Ephesians 2:6). After regeneration, we begin to see and hear and seek after divine things; we begin to live a life of faith and holiness. Now Christ is formed in the hearts; now we are partakers of the divine nature, having been made new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17). God, not man, is the source of this transformation (Ephesians 2:1, 8). God's great love and free gift, His rich grace and abundant mercy, are the cause of the rebirth. The mighty power of God—the power that raised Christ from the dead—is displayed in the regeneration and conversion of sinners (Ephesians 1:19–20).

Regeneration is necessary. Sinful human flesh cannot stand in God's presence. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said twice that a man must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 7). Regeneration is not optional, for "flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit" (John 3:6). Physical birth fits us for earth; spiritual rebirth fits us for heaven. See Ephesians 2:1; 1 Peter 1:23; John 1:13; 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18. Regeneration is part of what God does for us at the moment of salvation, along with sealing (Ephesians 1:14), adoption (Galatians 4:5), reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18–20), etc. Regeneration is God's making a person spiritually alive, as a result of faith in Jesus Christ. Prior to salvation we were not God's children (John 1:12–13); rather, we were children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3; Romans 5:18–20). Before salvation, we were degenerate; after salvation we are regenerated. The result of regeneration is peace with God (Romans 5:1), new life (Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17), and eternal sonship (John 1:12–13; Galatians 3:26). Regeneration begins the process of sanctification wherein we become the people God intends us to be (Romans 8:28–30).

The only means of regeneration is by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. No amount of good works or keeping of the Law can regenerate the heart. "By works of the law no human being will be justified in [God's] sight" (Romans 3:20). Only Christ offers a cure for the total depravity of the human heart. We don't need renovation or reformation or reorganization; we need rebirth.

© Copyright 2002-2024 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved.
www.GotQuestions.org