Regeneration

John Brine | Added: Sep 09, 2018 | Category: Theology

Regeneration is the infusion of a new principle of spiritual life. Naturally, men are dead in trespasses and sins, and, therefore, in order to their acting in a holy and spiritual manner, a living holy principle must be communicated to them. Hence the saints are said to be quickened, that is to say, they are inspired with life.

And this is a new life, and is a spring of new actions. It is called a new heart, and a new spirit, and an heart of flesh. Grace is not our old nature made better, and excited unto spiritual acts; but it is a new nature produced in our minds, by the divine infinite power and grace of God. For which reason we are said to be new creatures. Something now exists in us, which had no being in our minds before.

Nothing short of this comes up to the scriptural account of this matter. No excitations, no impulses, no aids, however forcible and great they are supposed to be, reach the intention of the Holy Spirit, in those phrases, which he uses on this subject.

Besides, our corrupt nature is not a fit subject for heavenly excitations, nor is it possible to bring it in subjection to the obedience of Christ. The carnal mind can never become subject to the Law of God. A bitter fountain will as soon send forth sweet streams, which all know is impossible.

Regeneration does not consist in acts, but in the production of a principle disposed unto actions holy and well-pleasing unto God, by Jesus Christ; and, therefore, this work is instantaneous and wrought on the mind at once.

John Brine

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