

## Regeneration and the New Covenant

Unique to Christianity is the concept of regeneration. With the New Covenant, God promises to give Believers a new spirit. What does that mean?

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (Ezek 36:25-27, NIV)

1. Carefully read the following passages. What do you observe about God the Father, God the Son, and the Believer?

Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." (John 14:19-21, NIV)

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. (John 14:23-24, NIV)

2. Carefully read the following passages about the Holy Spirit. What do you observe about the Holy Spirit and the Believer?

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17, NIV)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26, NIV)

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### Teacher Notes

Unique to Christianity is the concept of regeneration. With the New Covenant, God promises to give Believers a new spirit. What does that mean?

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Review with the student what the New Covenant was about.

Because the nation of Israel irrevocably broke the Mosaic Covenant and misrepresented Him to the world, God made the New Covenant to restore His holy name.

God will unilaterally forgive past, present, and future sin.

God will bestow the Holy Spirit within the Believer forever.

God will bless the descendant of Abraham with a secure nation and bountiful land.

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Ask the student: what do you observe about indwelling? Share all of your observations!

As Jesus is in union with His Father, the Believer is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Believer.

Anyone who loves Jesus will be loved by His Father, and both God and Jesus will live within the Believer.

2. Carefully read the following passages about the Holy Spirit. What do you observe about the Holy Spirit and the Believer?

And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever**— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17, NIV)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you**. (John 14:26, NIV)

Ask the student: what do you observe about indwelling? What does the indwelling Holy Spirit do?

God will give the Holy Spirit to indwell in the Believer forever. The Holy Spirit will be an advocate who will teach and remind the Believer of God's word. The Holy Spirit was given to help the Believer learn the truth and understand the Bible.

Ask the student: what conclusion do you come to about indwelling? Does God just give you the Holy Spirit?

The triune God coexists within the Believer!! This spiritual union defines the personal relationship between God and the Believer and serves a specific purpose in the New Covenant; it provides the supernatural means to cause Believers to live in a holy manner.

God makes the New Covenant and provides the means for atonement!

Jesus Christ is the means of atonement!

The Holy Spirit, as the agent of regeneration that establishes one as a son of God and guarantor of one's inheritance, enables the Believer to learn and understand God's word!