

# What We Teach

## SALVATION

### Regeneration

We teach that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given ([John 3:3-7](#); [Titus 3:5](#)).

“Everybody who is talking about heaven ain’t going there.” This line, from an old spiritual, accurately describes many in the church. Outwardly they identify with Christ, but inwardly they have never been genuinely converted. Because they cling to a false profession, they fool themselves into thinking they are on the narrow path leading to life, when in reality they are on the broad road that leads to destruction.

To make matters worse, their self-deception is often reinforced by well-meaning but undiscerning Christians who naively embrace them as true believers. Such confusion stems from the watered-down pseudo-gospels that are propagated from far too many pulpits.

([John 3:3](#)) **New Birth**: the new birth is a necessity, an imperative.

[John 3:3 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>3</sup>“Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

#### One fact show this:

1. The strong assertion, “**Unless one is born again.**” The word “again” (*anōthen*) has three different meanings in Greek.

It means...

- **From the first**: from the beginning or completely and fully (cp. [Luke 1:3](#)).
- **Again**: a second time, a repeated act ([John 3:4](#)) (cp. [Galatians 4:9](#)).
- **From above**: from the top, which means from God (cp. [John 19:11](#)).

The point is this. A man must be “**born again.**”

He must be...

- born completely and fully, a complete and full change.
- born all over *again*, in the sense of a second time.
- born *from above*, from God.

## Pastor Leadership Sunday School

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

The term “**born again**” has been butchered by Hollywood and politicians. President Carter popularized the term in politics when he ran for President. Being born again does not mean you are:

1. Turning over a new leaf.
2. Quitting bad habits and cleaning up your life.
3. Becoming religious, doing good deeds, or going to church.

The necessity of the new birth is vividly portrayed in the life of George Whitefield. At sixteen, he became deeply convicted of his sin. He tried everything to become acceptable to God. He wrote, “I fasted for 36 hours twice a week. I prayed formal prayers several time a day and almost starved myself to death during Lent, but only felt more miserable. Then by God’s grace I met Charles Wesley, who put a book in my hand that showed me from the Scriptures that I must be 'born again' or be eternally lost.”

Finally, Whitefield understood that he had to trust in Jesus Christ. He believed and was both forgiven and changed. After he became a preacher, he spoke at least a thousand times on the subject, “You must be born again.”

Spurgeon told of a missionary who visited a primitive hut and became nauseated by the filthy floor on which he had to sit. He suggested to his host that they scrub the dirty surface with soap and water, but the man replied, “the floor is just clay—packed down and dry. Add water and it turns to mud. The more you try to wash it, the worse the mess becomes!” Yes, the hut needed something besides an earthen floor. So it is with the human heart: it is hard and dirty, and nothing will help it. Man needs a new heart. He must be born again from above!