

# Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 2)

## Regenerating Grace

We began this topical Study last week on Characteristics of God's Grace, and we began where we should, in the beginning, before time itself, with the Covenant of Grace, and truly that study will follow us through out the rest of these studies, everything boils back to our Great God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who receives all the Glory!

What does the word "Regeneration" mean? The Greek word is (*pal-ing-ghen-es-ee'-ah*); (spiritual) *rebirth* (the state or the act), that is, (figuratively) spiritual *renovation*; specifically Messianic *restoration*: - regeneration, it comes from the word "*Pal-in*" which means "Anew" make new, I once mistakenly stated "God restored the Old heart to Himself" and I was immediately corrected, rightly so, God does not restore an old heart, He removes it! And restores Life where there was none!

**(Eze 36:24-27) For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**

The heart we speak of is the inner being, the spirit, all mankind come into this world with spiritually dead hearts, cold against the truths of God, we have no understanding of Spiritual things!

**(Rom 8:5-8) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

That word “enmity” is a very strong word; “*ekh'-thrah*”; *hostility*; by implication a reason for *opposition*: - enmity, hatred. We come into this world hating God, hating His word, enemies with Him and we cannot discern His truths! We are carnally minded, another words of this flesh, our natural born instinct is to satisfy this flesh! Satisfying the Lust of the flesh!

**(Eph 2:2-3) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

Where there was once nothing but death, Life must be given! Life must be restored, regeneration must occur!

**(Joh 3:1-8) There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**

The expression of the wind blowing, is God speaking to us on our level, it is the Holy Ghost, who moves about like the wind, who goes about giving Life, “Regenerating” those whom the Father gave to the Son.

**(Joh 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.**

**(Tit 3:3-7) For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy (His Grace) he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Life must come before one who was dead can act in Life! **“Ye must be born again”** That is “Regenerating Grace”!

**(Eph 2:4-5) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened (Made Alive) us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)** That phrase “By grace” would be better translated “By whose grace”

The Lord of all Glory has given in His record, His Word, a vision to one of His Profits of old, that is so clear on this subject of “Regeneration” we must consider it.

Ezekiel chapter 37!

**(Eze 37:1) The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD,**

Folks God's servants learn nothing until they have an experience similar to that of Ezekiel. They must be led by the Spirit of the Lord, and they must have their eyes and mouths opened by him, and then they can both see the vision, and tell the vision to others.

**Cont. (Eze 37:1) And set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,**

Like a huge grave, or battle-field where the slain had not been buried. Would any man go to such a place without being sent to such a place, yet it was needful that Ezekiel should be there in order that he might understand and speak the message of God. Notice the word valley is used, I cannot help but think of (Psalms 23) **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death”**, Folks we journey through a dying world, all that is of this earth is dying because of Sin; (Gen 3:17) **And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;** Also Notice if you will, this valley is “full”, there is no life in it! Total depravity!

**(Eze 37:2) And caused me to pass by them round about:**

The preacher had to make a thorough survey of this grim scene. You can't tell someone about a place you have never been. He had to experience it, for one to accurately describe something one must see it in detail.

**Cont. (Eze 37:2) And, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.**

Open to the sun for baking, They had lain there so long that the wind had dried up the juices of the marrow-bones, and they were turned to dust.

**(Eze 37:3) And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?**

God did not ask this question for his own information, but for the prophet's. The Lord wanted him to realize the difficulties of the work to which he was called that he might be driven the more completely to rely upon God, and not upon himself. As it is for every child of the most High! We can plant, we can water, But only god can give the increase!

**(Eze 37:3-4) And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.**

Recall the story of Naaman in 2nd Kings, he was told by the prophet Elisha, to go and wash in the Jordan river 7 times, recall how foolish Naaman thought that was? Ezekiel's task of preaching to dry bones must have seemed to be as useless as that; yet, if God bids us do the same, we need no other justification for doing it. (C. Spurgeon); "*What is foolish in the sight of reason is wisdom in the judgment of faith*".

**(Eze 37:5-6) Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.**

He had to tell these dead dry bones the unconditional purposes and promises of God: "**I will,**" and "**ye shall;**" and this is the way in which God works out his eternal purposes concerning the sons of men. He bids his servants proclaim His message, and then He fulfills His own purposes and promises.

**(Eze 37:7) So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise,**

A rustle, —A noise of movement, (Isa 55:11) **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

Cont. (Eze 37:7) **And behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.**

This is divine power bringing the bones to their proper position in the various bodies, and forging the separated anatomy to re-form itself.

(Eze 37:8) **And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.**

Not much improvement so far; no, there was only dead bodies instead of dry bones; there was something more to look at, but nothing more agreeable, and really no more of life than there was before.

(Eze 37:9) **Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man,**

**“Prophecy unto the wind.”** What a strange thing to do, but Folks there are no absurdities where God gives his commands.

Cont. (Eze 37:9-10) **And say to the wind, Thus saith the lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me,-**

Ezekiel was very obedient; he only wanted to know his Lord’s will, and then he raised no question, but did at once just as he was told to do: **“So I prophesied as he commanded me.”** It is a prime qualification in a servant of God that he should do exactly as he is bidden-not to think how he would like to do it, nor to follow the plan that his own wisdom suggests, but just to do as he is told, as Ezekiel did: **“So I prophesied as he commanded me,”** —

Cont. (Eze 37:10-11) **And the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.**

Or In other words, *“There is no hope for us; we are dead, and worse than dead. Our case is hopeless; there is no possibility of restoration for us.”* Yet the Lord answers;

**(Eze 37:12) Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**

There will be a house of Israel after all. The nation of Israel seemed to be dead and buried, but God would revive and restore it, Regenerate it! Folks this is a promise which may apply to us, dear friends, who are very heavy of heart, full of despair, and who seem as if you were as good as dead and buried, God speaks in this promise. **“Behold, O my people, I will open your graves.”** Therefore, believe His Word as though it had been directed to you personally, **“Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.”**

**(Eze 37:13) And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,**

Great deliverances and almighty quickenings reveal God to us and make us know how gloriously the Great Jehovah is.

**(Eze 37:14) And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.**

Divine Regeneration! “By Grace Ye are saved” what Love the Savior has for His people!

**(1Jn 3:1) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:**

Now that we have a small understanding of God's Grace in Regenerating us, we clearly see another side of this multifaceted, multisided Diamond of Grace. But How can this Regeneration be, how can this new life be?

**(Joh 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Who is this way?

**(Joh 10:30) I and my Father are one.**

What has he done?

**(Rom 5:8-10) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**

And where is He now?

**(Heb 1:3) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**