

## **PNEUMATOLOGY**

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit  
Bible Institute - *Winter 2025-26*  
Gulf Coast Baptist Church

### I. The Results of Regeneration (Spiritual Birth)

#### A. New Nature

##### 1. 2 Peter 1:3-4

- a) Peter indicates that believers have the potential for sharing in common with God's nature.
- b) In verse 4, there is no article with the word "nature". Therefore, Peter is not saying that we become God but that we share in a sample or a quality of the divine nature.
- c) Peter used the subjunctive mood with "*ye might be partakers*" indicating potentiality. It is not a certainty that the believer will share in common with the divine nature although it is available for every Christian.

##### 2. 1 John 3:9

- a) The believer in Christ has the Father's "seed" in him. "Seed" is translated from the Greek word *sperma* which is defined as that which the male contributes to the conception of a child. The *sperma* is how the father's characteristics or DNA are passed along to their child.
- b) John is essentially stating that every believer possesses God's spiritual DNA which serves as the basis of the new nature.

##### 3. 1 John 3:1; 5:1-2

- a) Considering these statements by Peter and John, we can understand what it means to be a child of God and born from the Father.
- b) Each believer in Christ has experienced spiritual birth, or a real birth in the realm of their spirit. The birth has resulted in the believer sharing the Father's seed and therefore His kind of nature.
- c) Because God is spirit, the effect of the birth upon the spirit and not the soul or body.

##### 4. John 1:12

- a) John writes that those who received Christ by faith, instead of rejecting Him during His earthly ministry, were granted the authority to become a child of God in the future.
- b) Because the Spirit was not sent until after Christ's ascension, this regenerating work of the Spirit was not taking place during Christ's earthly ministry. Therefore, they could not become children of God at that time.
- c) This unique group of believers had to wait until Pentecost to become children of God. Presently, we do not become children of God. We immediately become children the moment we believe the Gospel message.

**B. Benefits of the New Nature**

1. Ephesians 5:1, 8
  - a) Believers in Christ can walk as children of light. Walking in light means that God's children can imitate His kind of love, not by copying it, but by relating to truth in a manner by which that love is genuinely manifested through us.
  - b) The fruit of "light" is that fruit which manifests God's life in activity. God's kind of life must operate with God's kind of nature in the believer, so that the light can be seen.
2. Romans 8:17
  - a) Believers are heirs of God
  - b) Each of God's children have received an installment of that inheritance up front
3. Philippians 2:15-16
  - a) We can function as blameless and harmless as children of God.
  - b) Believers can be little lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse race
4. Ephesians 5:8-9
  - a) Believers can walk as children of light, manifesting God's kind of life in our activities.. The fruit of light, that is the product of living out God's life in activity is in the sphere of goodness, righteousness, and truth.
  - b) This is closely joined with the benefit of eternal life.

**C. New Life**

1. 1 John 5:11-12
  - a) John clearly expresses his desire that his audience would know that they possess eternal life.
  - b) Eternal life exists in His Son - Jesus Christ. It is God's kind of life.
  - c) Eternal life is not something for which they were to hope. It was a certainty
  - d) Eternal life is the present possession of every believer.
2. John 20:31
  - a) John recorded the signs and miracles in his good news so that others might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they could have life through His name.
  - b) Faith in the Gospel results in each believer having the potential to have life in the character of Christ.
3. John 17:3 - The purpose of eternal life is that we might experientially know God, specifically the Father and Son

**D. Benefits of Eternal Life**

1. 1 John 1:5-7 - we can walk in the light
2. Ephesians 5:2 - we can walk in love. Love and eternal life go hand in hand.
3. 1 John 3:14 - we can objectively know that we have passed out of death into the sphere of life because we love the brothers
4. 1 John 2:25 - Our eternal life is to be lived out, it is to abide at ease in us.
5. 1 Timothy 6:12, 19
  - a) Paul told Timothy to grab ahold of eternal life in order to live it out
  - b) Paul instructed Timothy to charge those who were rich in this world to lay hold of eternal life. They were to make use of eternal life to energize them to do good to other believers.

## E. New Mind

1. 1 Corinthians 2:16 - “...*we have the mind of Christ*”
  - a) There is no article with the word “mind” indicating the we each believer has is a sample or quality of Christ’s mind.
  - b) In the context of the passage, this is why we can appreciate these truths. The Holy Spirit gives us discernment regarding the value of these truths.
  - c) With the mind of Christ, the believer can think these truths with God, Who has revealed them to us.
2. Romans 12:2
  - a) This new mind allows us to be transformed. “Transformed” is translated “transfigured” in the gospels and refers to a change on the outside in conformity to what one is on the inside (see 2 Corinthians 3:18).
  - b) The new mind allows the believer to think properly about his position within the Christ, the New Man (see Ephesians 4:22-24)
  - c) The new mind gives the believer the ability to know and to think about his position in Christ. Without this new mind, the spirit would not have a mental capacity within the believer with which to work.
3. 1 John 2:27; Romans 8:5-9 - Because of this mind, the Spirit can direct the believer to use his mind with the truths of his position in Christ