



A Biblical Experience of Regeneration

Regeneration as a spiritual experience is represented in a multifaceted way in the Scriptures. It means “believing in” and “receiving” Christ and “becoming a child of God”.¹ It means being “saved by grace”.² It means “passing out of death into life”³, that is, “having eternal life and not coming into the judgment” (of the sentence of death)⁴. It means passing out of the state of spiritual death (which is separation from God because of sin) and “being made alive together with Christ”.⁵ It means being “raised from the dead ... to walk in newness of life”.⁶ It means being “born again” – “born from above”, “born of the Spirit”.⁷

The apostle Paul spoke about some of the **effects of regeneration** when he wrote: “you laid aside the old man with its evil practices and have put on the new man who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”⁸ This is a work which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in the believer **as a result of regeneration.**

¹ John 1;12

² Ephesians 2:5

³ John 5:24 & I John 3;14

⁴ John 5:24

⁵ Ephesians 2:5

⁶ Romans 6:3-6

⁷ John 3:3-8

⁸ Colossians 3:9-10

I have a saying: We need to be **taught** sound doctrine; but we also need to **experience** sound doctrine. We must try to **understand** the doctrine of being born again - and more importantly, we must **experience** the reality of being born again. I think it was in a book entitled *Spiritual Reality or Obsession*, in which a man named Watchman Nee stated something to this effect: *"The doctrinal debates come to an end when one experiences the spiritual reality of the work of God in one's life."* (Paraphrased)

While it is good to have understanding, humanly speaking, it seems we cannot totally understand the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration. In John 3:8, Jesus likened the Spirit's work of regeneration to the blowing of the wind – it is something we may not totally **understand**, but it is something we can **experience**.⁸"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, **but you do not know** (i.e., do not **understand**) where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

It is important that we seek to **understand** this doctrine, but the **experience** of this doctrine is what Jesus is ultimately after. Jesus would like us to be able to **understand** and teach this doctrine to others, but what He is ultimately after is that we **experience** the reality of being born again. Our testimony and witness are not based upon our ability to **understand** and explain the doctrine – it is based upon our **personal experience** of the

spiritual reality. This is essentially what He said to Nicodemus in John 3:11:

¹¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen.” In other words, “*We know what we’re talking about – we’ve **experienced** it.*”

Spiritual realities like regeneration are **mysteries** of God.

Doctrine is an effort to give a biblical explanation of a **biblical experience**. You may not fully **understand** the doctrine, but you must **experience** the spiritual reality of being “born again”.

The experience of regeneration – being born again – takes place by the work of the Spirit of grace and is received through faith. But this does not mean: “You just have to accept it on faith”, (meaning believing it without experiencing it). This experience can be likened to the good works that follow true faith which James spoke about.⁹ In fact, James said that faith that doesn’t work itself out into your experience in “dead” – it’s questionable as to whether it can save you. Being born again is not something you “just accept on faith” that it has really taken place. Being born again involves having an **experience** with the Creator of the Universe – it is **obviously** and **assuredly** life changing.

⁹ James 2:14-26

“A Biblical Experience of Regeneration” is an excerpt from the eBook [“You MUST Be Born Again”](#). See the corresponding [eBook](#) on our website.

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“Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.”

1 Corinthians 2:13

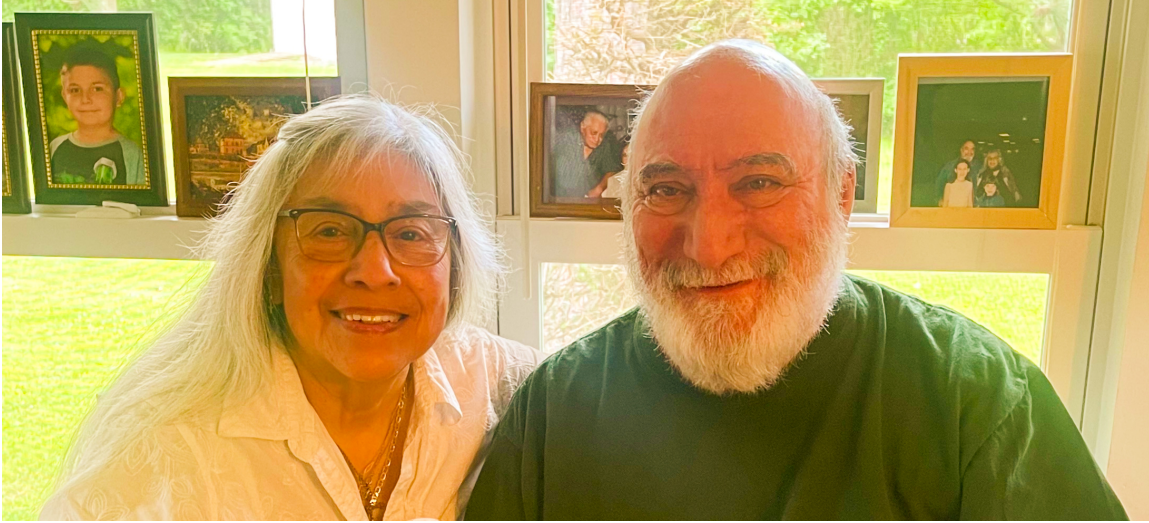
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Bill & Frances Furioso
~ At Christ's Table ~



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, disciplined many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

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