**Regeneration: Getting ready for the Kingdom to come**

**Main Idea**

**New life brings a new standing with God and a new life within**

**1. Why do we need new life and how do we get it (from John)? John 3:1-16**

* **New life is required to enter the Kingdom (Jn. 20:30-31; 11:25-27)**
* **“Born again” or “born from above”**
* **Involves the work of the Spirit in washing us clean and breathing in new life – Ezek. 36:24-27; 37:1-14**
* **Begins by believing in Jesus for eternal life – Jn. 3:14-16, 19**
* **The final judgment for unbelievers - Rev. 20:11-15; Jn. 5:24**

**2. Why do we need new life and how do we get it (from Paul)? Eph. 2:1-9**

* **We are dead in sins, i.e., we do not have (God’s) life – 2:1**
* **Death is not “inability” – 2:2-3**
* **God gives us life and unites us with Christ – 2:4-7**
* **This life is received by faith – 2:8-9**

**3. What happens when we believe and get life?**

* **We are new in relationship to God** 
  + **We are joined to Christ and enjoy a new standing – Eph. 2:4-6**
  + **We are justified – Rom. 5:1**
  + **We are forgiven – Col. 2:13**
  + **We are sanctified – Heb. 10:10**
  + **We are perfected – Heb. 10:14**
  + **We get the Holy Spirit – Eph. 2:13**
* **We are new inside**
  + **We have a new inner self – Rom. 7:21-22**
  + **Our new person is inclined to righteousness – Heb. 10:15 (Rom. 7:22)**
  + **Yet, we are still in the flesh – Rom. 7:23**
  + **Our new person is sinless – 1 Jn. 3:9; Rom. 7:21-22**
  + **Our new person needs strengthening – Eph. 3:16-17**

**4. Our dangerous default mode**

* **1 Cor. 3:1-3 – “I’ve never seen you grow”**
* **1 Cor. 11:30 – Believers can sin unto death (1 Jn. 5:16)**
* **The presence of new life does not mean we walk in new life**
* **Rom. 7:14-24, especially vv. 21-23**
  + **The desire is present**
  + **How to do good is absent**
* **Gal. 5:16**
  + **We have a war inside of us**
  + **Our only hope is walking in the Spirit**
  + **Christians do not do what they naturally want to do**

**5. We need to stay close to Jesus, to walk in the Spirit, to have a better future**

* **John 15:1-7 – “Abide in Me” = “Stay close to Me”**
* **Rom. 8**
  + **8:1-2 – No servitude to sin when we walk in the Spirit**
  + **8:3-4 – Life in Christ and freedom**
  + **8:5-6 - The experience of life and peace**
  + **8:7 – Carnal or fleshly Christians can’t be spiritually successful**
  + **8:8 - Unbelievers without the Spirit cannot please God**
  + **8:9 – Believers have the Spirit and spiritual opportunity**
  + **8:10-11 – The Spirit can give life to believer’s dead body**
  + **8:12-13 – Walk in the flesh = experience of death; the Spirit = life**
  + **8:14-15 – Walking in the Spirit lives out our adult-son position**
  + **8:16-17a – All believers are children of God and heirs of God**
  + **8:17b – When we suffer with Christ, we become co-heirs with Him**
  + **8:18 – Suffering with Jesus builds a future beyond imagination**
  + **8:19-39 – God will grant His support, reward, and love that never ends to those who suffer with His Son**

