

# Were the Old Testaments Saints Regenerated and Indwelt by the Holy Spirit?



Adam and Eve



Noah



Jonah



Ruth



Goliath



Joshua



Samson



Abraham



Queen Esther



Daniel



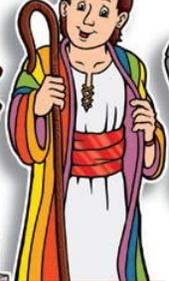
Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego



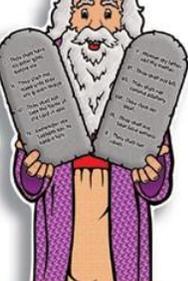
David



Nehemiah



Joseph



Moses

## Were Old Testaments Saints Regenerated and Indwelled by the Holy Spirit?

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Before we can begin to answer this question, we have to understand the Biblical definitions of Regeneration and Indwelling.

### REGENERATION

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1. The English word Regeneration, translated from the Greek word Palingenesia, is used only twice in the New Testament:

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2. Palingenesia literally means:

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† Matthew 19:28 “So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in *THE regeneration*, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’”

3. Read the following passages of Scripture and offer a general answer to how regeneration is being used in Matthew 19:28:

† Matthew 25:31; Acts 3:21; Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 22:1; Isaiah 2:2-4; 4:2-6; 11:1-11; 32:16-18; 35:1-2.

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4. Titus 3:5 “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of *regeneration* and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Who is doing the regenerating and the renewing?

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5. The word regeneration in Titus 3:5 (Palingenesia) refers to the spiritual rebirth of the individual soul by the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ In the Greek, Palingenesia is the combination of two Greek words: Palin and Genesis.
  - ✠ Palin is an adverb meaning again, back, back again.
  - ✠ Genesis, is a noun meaning birth, and comes from the Greek verb ginomai which means "to become, to begin to be, to come into existence." It can also mean entrance into a new state.
  - ✠ Used of persons it means "to become, to be born."
  - ✠ In John 8:58, the Greek verb ginomai is used of Abraham and is translated as WAS. Given that Jesus calls Himself I Am (which is the self-existent one), how does this juxtapose against Abraham and WAS?

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6. Explain how ginomai is used in Galatians 4:4. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born (ginomai) of a woman, born (ginomai) under the law."

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7. Taken together using the above passages, palingenesia, translated regeneration literally means what?

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8. In Titus 3:5, Paul is describing our regeneration (our new birth) and our renewal of the Holy Spirit at salvation.
- † Regeneration is the work of the Spirit at conversion which gives the believer new life (literally being born again) in Christ.
  - † The idea of new life comes from the birthing imagery found throughout the NT regarding our salvation experience.
  - † To whom do the following passages say we are being “born” (γεννᾶω) at salvation?

John 1:12-13	
1 John 2:29	
1 John 5:1-5	

9. To whom do the following passages say we are being “born” (γεννᾶω) at salvation?

John 3:5-8	
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10. What do the following passages say about the nature of our being born at salvation?

John 3:3	
John 3:7	
1 Peter 1:3	
James 1:18	

11. Read James 1:18 and explain how God gives birth to us.

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12. What does Ephesians 1:13 tells us about how God accomplishes our salvation:

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13. Over and over again, the Scriptures tell us that it is The Word of God that changes us!  
 Underline the parts of the following passages of Scripture that demonstrate how the Word of God changes us.

Jeremiah 23:29	"Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"
John 6:63	"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."
John 6:68	"But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"
John 15:3	"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."
John 17:17	"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
Acts 2:37	"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart..."
Acts 11:14	"who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved."
Romans 1:16	"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
Romans 10:17	"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
1 Corinthians 1:18	"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
1 Corinthians 1:21	"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."
1 Corinthians 4:15	"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."
1 Corinthians 15:1-2	"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain."

1 Thessalonians 2:13	"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."
Hebrews 4:12	"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Refer back to Jeremiah 23:29
James 1:18	"Of His own will He brought us forth BY the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."
James 1:21	"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
1 Peter 1:23	"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."

14. Our rebirth is a change. Scripture tells us we have changed in that we have passed from death to life. Underline the pertinent information in the following passages that demonstrate this truth.

John 5:24	<b>"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."</b>
Ephesians 2:1	<b>"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."</b>
Ephesians 2:5-6	<b>"even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."</b>
Colossians 2:13	<b>"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses."</b>
1 John 3:14	<b>"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death."</b>

15. Underline those portions of Scripture that tells us our rebirth makes us a new creation in Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17	<b>"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."</b>
Galatians 6:15	<b>"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."</b>

16. Our rebirth also speaks to our renewal. The word *renew* used in the following passages means to renew qualitatively, and to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming superior - to make new. Therefore, the idea is a renewing or a renovation which makes a person different than in the past. Underline those pertinent portions of the following passages that demonstrate a renewal.

Romans 12:2	<b>"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."</b>
Titus 3:5	<b>not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,</b>
Ephesians 4:22-24	<b>"that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."</b>

17. One of the fundamental aspects of our Regeneration is that we are a new creation IN Christ. How does Colossians 3:9-11 demonstrate our being IN Christ?

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18. Our rebirth also speaks of our resurrection from the dead. Underline the pertinent portions of the following passages that demonstrate our resurrection.

Romans 6:4-5	<b>“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”</b>
Ephesians 2:4-6	<b>“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”</b>
Colossians 2:12	<b>“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”</b>

## INDWELLING

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19. Indwelling is the Spirit's permanent presence in the believer beginning at conversion. The idea of *presence in* comes from the NT *indwelling* imagery regarding the Spirit and the believer. What does Jesus predicted in John 14:16-17 concerning the indwelling of the Spirit?

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20. What two things does Paul say to believers about the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 6:19?

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Read Romans 8:9-11. Paul states in these passages three times that the Spirit "dwells in you." When reading these passages, consider the following three facts:

- † The word *dwells* is *oihece*, and is the verb form of *oikos* which is the Greek word for *a home*. The verb therefore means "to live or dwell in a certain place as your home." The Spirit is not only resident in the believer in the sense of position in him, but He is actively at home in him, living in him as His home.
- † Something else to keep in mind is that verse 10, like verses 9b and 11, is a Greek conditional statement meaning that the condition is assumed to be true; it can be understood as *since* or *because*.
- † Notice also that the word dwells in all three passages (Romans 8:9-11) is in the present tense.

21. Underline the pertinent portions of the following passages that demonstrate this idea of the Holy Spirit living IN us.

2 Timothy 1:14	<b>That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. (Dwell is from the same Greek word as Romans 8:9.)</b>
Ephesians 1:13-14	<b>In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.</b>
Galatians 4:6	<b>And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"</b>
1 Corinthians 3:16	<b>Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?</b>

1 Corinthians 12:13	<b>Paul declares that all of us have been “baptized into one body” and “made to drink into one Spirit,” (Drink into one Spirit may indicate His presence within us as believers.)</b>
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	<b>Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (Link this passage with Ephesians 1:13-14)</b>

The big question is WHEN these ministries of the Holy Spirit began (regenerating believers at conversion and indwelling them permanently).

- ✠ In Acts 1-2, Pentecost is presented as the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ When Jesus ascended, He instructed His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they should receive power from on high.
- ✠ At Pentecost, Christ fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit from Heaven (Luke 24:49; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4)
- ✠ As a group of 120 were praying in an upper room in Jerusalem fifty days after His death, the Holy Spirit descended upon them and baptized believers into the body of Christ (v. 5 [cf. 11:15-17]; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
- ✠ The Spirit's descent at Pentecost (Acts 1:15; 2:1) was accompanied by:
  - “a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind” (v. 2)
  - “the appearance of “divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.” (v. 3)
- ✠ More important than these temporary, outward, physical phenomena, was the permanent, inward, spiritual gift of the Spirit, for “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (v. 4)
- ✠ As these Spirit-filled believers spoke in various languages, their audience responded, “And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?” (v. 8)
- ✠ Then Peter explained that the phenomena of various languages was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy that God would pour out His Spirit on all people (vv. 16-21; cf. Joel 2:28-32).
- ✠ Peter also preached that God raised the crucified Jesus and made Him both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:22-36).
- ✠ When Peter called his audience to repentance (vv. 37-38), about three thousand people “received his word [and] were baptized” (v. 41).
- ✠ This tremendous manifestation of divine power marked the beginning of the Church, which has ever since regarded Pentecost as its birthday.

22. Examine the time periods both before AND after Pentecost, and ask yourself when the Holy Spirit’s ministries of regenerating believers at conversion and indwelling them permanently actually began.

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## AREAS OF AGREEMENT

Regarding the experience of OT saints, all parties in this discussion should agree on four things:

### I. OT Saints Experienced Salvation.

23. How does Psalm 32:1-2 demonstrate OT salvation?

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24. How does Romans 4:5-8 echo the sentiment of Psalm 32:1-2?

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25. Offer three pieces of evidence of OT salvation from Psalm 23:6.

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3. 

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### II. OT Saints Could Be Confident In A Future Bodily Resurrection And Receive Their Reward In The Coming Kingdom Of God

26. Underline the pertinent portions of the following passages that identifies OT Resurrection and Reward in the Coming Kingdom:

Job 19:25-27	For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; <u>And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,</u> Whom <u>I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold,</u> and not another. How my heart yearns within me!
Isaiah 26:19	<u>Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;</u> For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.
Ezekiel 37:1-4	<u>The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!'</u> (Specifically, this is talking about the restoration of National Israel)

Ezekiel 37:12	<b>Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.</b>
Daniel 12:2; 13	<b>2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. 13 But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.</b>
Hosea 13:14	<b>I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.</b>
Matthew 8:11	<b>And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.</b>

**III. All should agree on how OT saints were saved: by faith apart from works.**

27. How does Galatians 3:11 prove that salvation was by faith?

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28. Some might want to dismiss this passage as only applying to the New Testament, but who is Paul quoting in Galatians 3:11?

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29. Paul demonstrates over and over again that OT saints were saved by faith apart from works. Complete the chart below by answering each question from Romans 4:1-5.

Romans 4:1	What is the salvation contrast in this verse?	
Romans 4:2	Why <i>can't</i> Abraham be justified by works?	
Romans 4:3	What OT proof saved Abraham? Look at Genesis 15:6.	
Romans 4:4-5	What is the contrast between faith and works?	

30. How does Paul prove his point about OT saints being saved apart from works by using the OT (Psalm 32:1-2) in Romans 4:5-8?

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31. The Gospel is not an exclusively New Testament message. The Old Testament contained it as well. What does Galatians 3:8-9 say about this, and how is the OT used to support Paul's claims?

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32. As early as Genesis 3:15, we see the promise of a coming Savior, and throughout the Old Testament there are hundreds of promises that the Messiah would “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21.) How does, for example, Isaiah 53:5-6 demonstrate that salvation is of God not man?

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33. Compare Isaiah 45:22, John 3:14:15, and John 12:32. What do these three passages tell us about how people are saved?

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**IV. We can all agree that the Holy Spirit was present and active (individually and corporately) in the lives of OT saints.**

34. How does Isaiah 63:11; 14, and Nehemiah 9:20 demonstrate that the Holy Spirit was present and active?

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35. How was the Spirit active in individuals?

ANSWERS	PASSAGES	NOTES
	Ezekiel 2:2	
	Ezekiel 8:3	
	Ezekiel 11:1	
	Ezekiel 11:24	
	Numbers 11:25	
	1 Samuel 10:10	
	2 Samuel 23:2	
	Acts 1:16	
	Acts 4:25	
	Zechariah 7:12	
	2 Peter 1:21	
	Genesis 41:38-39	
	Deuteronomy 34:9	
	Judges 3:10	
	Judges 11:29-33	
	1 Samuel 11:6-7	
	1 Samuel 16:1-13	
	Exodus 31:1-5	
	Exodus 35:30-35	

36. What do the following passages of Scripture show about individual awareness of Spirit involvement?

Psalm 51:11-12	
Psalm 139:7	
Isaiah 11:1-2	
Isaiah 40:13	
Isaiah 48:16	
Joel 2:28	
Haggai 2:4-5	
<p>✠ OT Saints were saved, they were saved by faith apart from works, and they experienced the presence and involvement of the Holy Spirit in their lives. This much seems beyond dispute.</p>	

## Two Questions:

1. Were the Old Testament Saints regenerated, and were they born again and made into new creations in the same way as New Testament Saints?
2. Did they have the permanent indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit as do New Testament Saints (Romans 8:9)?

† Scholars take three main positions on this issue:

1. OT Saints were both regenerated and permanently indwelt.
2. OT Saints were regenerated but were not permanently indwelt. (Alternatives to permanent indwelling are selective indwelling of some OT Saints or the Spirit abiding with all OT Saints.)
3. OT Saints were neither regenerated nor permanently indwelt.

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## Position 1: Regeneration and Permanent Indwelling

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### THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT:

#### Regeneration Precedes Faith

- † One way to argue theologically for OT Spirit regeneration is by holding that regeneration precedes faith.
- † The argument is that since regeneration is necessary for faith, and OT Saints exercised faith, then they must have been regenerated.
- † Put simply, OT Saints could not believe unless they were first regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
- † This theological argument comes from a Reformed (Calvinistic) view of the Scriptures.
- † **The problem is that the Scriptures DO NOT teach that the Spirit regenerates a person BEFORE they believe.**
- † We're going to examine NINE (9) questions/concepts related to Calvinism in an effort to disprove, from the Scriptures, that regeneration must precede belief:

1. **Men must first be drawn before they can accept the Gospel and be saved.**
2. **How are men drawn to God?**
3. **Once drawn, what does God expect us to do?**
4. **Once we seek after Him, hear the Gospel, what next?**
5. **How many times does the bible exhort us to believe and then be saved?**
6. **Salvation is a gift for the whole world.**
7. **Salvation is a free gift.**
8. **To whom is the gift offered & who can accept the gift?**
9. **Q: Is faith, itself, a gift? A: No**

## CALVINISM REFUTED

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### Total Depravity – From a Calvinistic Perspective

- ‡ In a general sense, the unregenerate are unable to do good (as well as unable to refrain from doing bad) spiritually.
- ‡ They are completely dead, and are therefore *unable* to respond to God or the Gospel (to any degree) while in an unregenerate state or before being born again.
- ‡ According to this view, the will of unregenerate man (in so far as responding to God, the Gospel, etc., is concerned) is dead and therefore *inoperable*.
- ‡ Thus, according to Calvinism, the unregenerate man cannot receive Christ or believe the Gospel preached to him, *because he hasn't been regenerated by the Spirit first*.
- ‡ He cannot do anything to accept the free gift of eternal life offered to him and thereby be saved.
- ‡ Those who are going to be regenerated must be regenerated (i.e., born again) BEFORE they can believe in Christ.
- ‡ You must be born again first before you can believe and be born again.
- ‡ Only after spiritual rebirth can you have and exercise saving faith from a Calvinist's point of view.
- ‡ The Holy Spirit first regenerates those Elect believers SO THAT they can hear and believe the Gospel.
- ‡ This, therefore, is why some believe that OT saints must have been regenerated, since they exercised faith and were saved.

### ***MEN MUST FIRST BE DRAWN BEFORE THEY CAN ACCEPT THE GOSPEL AND BE SAVED***

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- ‡ Calvinists use John 6:44 as a proof text for why men cannot possibly come to the Father, seek after salvation, or accept the Gospel before being regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
1. What does John 6:44 say about who can come to the Father, and how they can come to the Father?
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## HOW ARE MEN DRAWN TO GOD?

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2. I contend that men ARE drawn, but they have the responsibility to accept the Gospel. Read the following passages and complete the last column based on how men are drawn to God?

Jeremiah 31:3	The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.	
John 5:40	But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.	
John 6:44	No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.	
John 11:25-26	Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"	
John 12:32	And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."	
Romans 1:16	For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek	
Romans 10:14	How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?	

Romans 10:17	So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.	
2 Timothy 1:12	For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.	
Luke 6:47 Matthew 11:28 John 6:35 John 7:37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i><b>Whoever</b></i> comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like</li> <li>▪ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.</li> <li>▪ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.</li> <li>▪ "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.</li> </ul>	

**ONCE DRAWN, WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT US TO DO?**

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3. If we are completely dead and unable to respond to the Gospel, why then are we repeatedly given the responsibility to believe? Complete the chart below by answering the question about what God expects men to do once drawn by Him.

Acts 17:30	Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent	
2 Peter 3:9	The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.	
1 Chronicles 16:11	Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!	
1 Chronicles 22:19	Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God.	
Amos 5:6	Seek the Lord and live, Lest He break out like fire in the house of Joseph, And devour it, With no one to quench it in Bethel –	
Zephaniah 2:2-3	Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the Lord's anger.	
Isaiah 11:10	And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.	
Matthew 6:33	But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.	

Luke 11:9-13	So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!	
Acts 17:22-27	Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. <b>[BUT PEOPLE DON'T SEEK AFTER GOD, RIGHT?]</b> Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <b>so that they should seek the Lord</b> , in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;	

**ONCE WE SEEK AFTER HIM AND HEAR THE GOSPEL, WHAT NEXT?**

4. It is important that we revisit what changes men, and leads to salvation. The theological argument is that men believe only AFTER they're regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The Bible says man must believe to be Saved. Man's responsibility is to believe...of his own volition. Remember, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23) Believe what, exactly? Once we're drawn by God, the Bible teaches we must be changed. Complete the following chart by underlining the words that demonstrate how we are changed.

Jeremiah 23:29	<b>Is not My word like a fire? says the Lord, And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?</b>
John 6:63	<b>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.</b>
John 6:68	<b>But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'</b>
John 15:3	<b>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.</b>
John 17:17	<b>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.</b>
Acts 2:37	<b>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart...</b>
Acts 11:14	<b>who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.</b>
Romans 1:16	<b>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.</b>
Romans 10:17	<b>So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.</b>
1 Corinthians 1:18	<b>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.</b>
1 Corinthians 1:21	<b>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.</b>
1 Corinthians 4:15	<b>For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.</b>

1 Corinthians 15:1-2	<b>Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.</b>
1 Thessalonians 2:13	<b>For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.</b>
2 Timothy 3:15	<b>and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.</b>
Hebrews 4:12	<b>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.</b>
James 1:18	<b>Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.</b>
James 1:21	<b>Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.</b>
1 Peter 1:23	<b>having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.</b>

## **HOW MANY TIMES DOES THE BIBLE EXHORT US TO BELIEVE AND THEN BE SAVED?**

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5. Too many times in Scripture are we exhorted to believe what we hear. Over and over again we are told to believe, yet when exhorted, no mention of the Calvinistic regenerating work of the Spirit is given to allow for us to exercise faith! Faith means "firm persuasion, conviction, belief in the truth; conviction of the truth of anything, belief; confidence, certainty, trust." Underline the pertinent parts of the following passages of Scripture that demonstrate that we have to believe in order to be saved:

1. Matthew 12:21	And in His name Gentiles will trust.
2. Mark 16:16	He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
3. Luke 7:48-50	Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."
4. Luke 23:42-43	Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
5. John 1:12-13	But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name
6. John 3:15	Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life
7. John 3:16	For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life
8. John 3:18	He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God
9. John 3:36	He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him
10. John 5:24	Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life

11. John 5:39-47	You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and [you] do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you – Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?
12. John 6:28-29	Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
13. John 6:35	And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst"
14. John 6:40	And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day
15. John 6:47	Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life
16. John 6:68-69	But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17. John 7:38	He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water
18. John 9:35-38	Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.
19. John 11:25	Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
20. John 11:26-27	And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

21. John 12:46	I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.
22. John 14:1	"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
23. John 14:6	Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
24. John 14:12	"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.
25. John 16:7-9	Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me;
26. John 17:20	I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
27. John 20:24-29	Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
28. John 20:30-31	And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
29. Acts 2:21	And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved
30. Acts 3:16	And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

31. Acts 8:36-37	Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
32. Acts 9:42	And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.
33. Acts 10:43	All the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins
34. Acts 11:1	Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.
35. Acts 11:17-18	If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."
36. Acts 13:38-39	Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.
37. Acts 15:8-9	So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
38. Acts 15:11	But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they
39. Acts 16:30-31	And he [the jail keeper] brought them [Paul and Silas] outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
40. Acts 20:21	Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ
41. Acts 22:19	So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You.

42. Acts 26:17-18	I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
43. Romans 1:16	For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek
44. Romans 1:17	For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
45. Romans 3:21-22	But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
46. Romans 3:24-26	being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
47. Romans 3:28	Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law
48. Romans 3:29-30	Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.
49. Romans 4:3	For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
50. Romans 4:5	But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

51. Romans 4:16-21	Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
52. Romans 4:23-25	Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.
53. Romans 5:1-2	Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
54. Romans 9:30-32	What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.
55. Romans 10:9	That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved
56. Romans 10:10	For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
57. Romans 10:11	For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
58. Romans 10:13	For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

59. Romans 10:14-17	How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
60. Romans 11:20	Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith.
61. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2	Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.
62. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up – if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
63. 2 Corinthians 1:24	Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.
64. 2 Corinthians 4:13-14	And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.
65. 2 Corinthians 5: 5-7	Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. (we can be supremely confident because we have the Holy Spirit as a guarantee)(v.5)

66. Galatians 2:16	Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.
67. Galatians 2:20	I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
68. Galatians 3:5-7	Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? – just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.
69. Galatians 3:8	And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed"
70. Galatians 3:11	But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."
71. Galatians 3:14	That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith
72. Galatians 3:22	But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
73. Galatians 3:24	Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith
74. Galatians 3:26	For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus
75. Galatians 5:4-6	You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.
76. Ephesians 1:13	In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

77. Ephesians 1:15-20	Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
78. Ephesians 2:8-9	For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
79. Philippians 3:8-9	Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
80. Colossians 2:11-12	In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
81. 1 Thessalonians 4:14	For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
82. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12	And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
83. 1 Timothy 1:16	But I obtained mercy for the reason that in me, as the foremost [of sinners], Jesus Christ might show forth and display all His perfect long-suffering and patience for an example to [encourage] those who would thereafter believe on Him for [the gaining of] eternal life. AMP
84. 1 Timothy 4:10	For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe

85. 2 Timothy 1:12	For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.
86. 2 Timothy 3:15	and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus
87. 1 Peter 1:8-9	Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.
88. 1 Peter 1:18-21	Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
89. Hebrews 3:12-14	Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end
90. Hebrews 5:9	And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him
91. Hebrews 7:25	Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
92. Hebrews 10:39	But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.
93. Heb. 11:6	But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

94. Hebrews 12:1-2	Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
95. James 2:19	You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!
96. 1 John 3:23	And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
97. 1 John 4:14-16	And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
98. 1 John 5:1	Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him
99. 1 John 5:4-5	For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
100.1 John 5:10	He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.
101.1 John 5:11-12	And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life
102.1 John 5:13	These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God

## SALVATION IS A GIFT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

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6. Calvinists often read the NT back into the OT as a method of interpretation. One Calvinist position is that Christ died **ONLY** for the Elect. Since they believe this, it makes sense from their perspective that OT Saints must be part of the Elect, though no OT evidence exists for this. This is one way the read the NT back into the OT. The main problem with this interpretation is that Christ died for the sins of the whole world, not only the Elect. Once we understand this, we have no reason to read the NT back into the OT. Propitiation, or Satisfaction, means that Christ's redemptive sacrifice has satisfied God's righteous wrath against all sin (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; cf. Isaiah 53:10-11; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:3). Propitiation is a result of Christ's infinite sacrifice to satisfy divine justice. OT Saints did not have to be regenerated in order to believe, and the only requirement for salvation in both the NT and the OT is belief. The reason is because Christ's death was enough to satisfy God's wrath against sin for the whole world. Underline the pertinent information in the following Scripture passages that describe about WHO Christ died for?

Isaiah 53:6	All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
John 1:29	The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
John 3:16	For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
2 Corinthians 5:18-19	Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
Colossians 1:19-20	For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.
1 Timothy 4:10	For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.
1 John 2:2	And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
1 John 4:14	And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

## *SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT*

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7. Salvation is a free gift that is offered to all men. The Greek word used in the following passages is *dorea* (*dwrea*) and denotes "a free gift," stressing its gratuitous character; it is always used in the NT of a spiritual or supernatural gift. If regeneration must precede faith, like the Calvinists teach, then salvation cannot be a free gift. Underline the pertinent information in the following Scriptures related to this idea:

John 4:10	Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."
Acts 2:38	Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 10:44-45	While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
Acts 11:15-18	And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

Romans 5:12-21	Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned – (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Ephesians 2:8	For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

## ***TO WHOM IS THE GIFT OFFERED & WHO CAN ACCEPT THE GIFT?***

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8. Again, if regeneration must precede faith, why is the gift of salvation offered to all men? Underline the pertinent portions of the following Scripture passages that answer this question.

Isaiah 45:22	Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.
Matthew 11:28	Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 28:19	Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Mark 16:16	He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
John 1:12	But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
John 3:14-15	And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16	For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:17	For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
John 3:18	He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
John 3:36	He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.
John 4:14	but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 5:24	Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
John 6:35	And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
John 7:37	On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."
John 6:40	And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 6:47	Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.
John 6:51	I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.
John 6:54	Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 6:56	He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.
John 6:57	As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.
John 6:58	This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.
John 11:25	Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
John 11:26	And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
John 12:44	Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.
John 12:46	I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

John 12:47-48	And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
John 20:31	but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
Acts 8:36-37	Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
Acts 16:30-31	And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
Romans 1:16	For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (there is no one else besides Jews and Greeks)
Romans 10:9-10	that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
Romans 10:14	How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
Romans 10:11	For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”
Romans 10:12	For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.
Romans 10:13	For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
1 Corinthians 1:2	To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.
Galatians 3:22	But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

1 Timothy 2:3-4	For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 4:10	For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.
2 Peter 3:9	The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
Hebrews 7:25	Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
1 John 5:1	Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

**Q: IS FAITH ALSO A GIFT? A: NO**

Several passages of Scriptures seem to indicate that Faith is a gift given only to the Elect. One such passage Calvinists use to demonstrate this is 2 Peter 1:1, "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who **have obtained** like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"

- The Greek word for "have obtained" means "to receive by divine allotment."
- Is 2 Peter 1:1 saying that faith (the power or ability to believe) is given by divine allotment; given by God?
- If it is, we have too many other passages that seem to contradict that:
- It is the Word of God that changes people, leads to salvation, and is the tool God uses.

Jeremiah 23:29	"Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, " And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"
John 6:63	"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."
John 6:68	"But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"
John 15:3	"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."
John 17:17	"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
Acts 2:37	"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart..."
Acts 11:14	"who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved."
Romans 1:16	"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for IT is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (emphasis added)
Romans 10:17	"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
1 Corinthians 1:18	"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
1 Corinthians 1:21	"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

1 Corinthians 4:15	“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
1 Corinthians 15:1-2	“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.”
1 Thessalonians 2:13	“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”
2 Timothy 3:15	and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
Hebrews 4:12	“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
James 1:18	“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”
James 1:21	“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
1 Peter 1:23	“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

† 2 Peter 1:1 “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:”

† If 2 Peter 1:1 is not saying that faith (the ability to believe) is given by God, what IS being given?

† The Greek word translated “faith” can mean three different things,

1. To trust in and be committed to Jesus Christ.
2. A body of authoritative teaching. That which is believed, doctrine, the received articles of faith.
3. The Christian faith as a religious movement.

† Faith can be Subjective AND/OR Objective:

- Faith subjectively means firm persuasion, conviction, belief in the truth, veracity, reality or faithfulness (though rare).
- Objectively, faith means that which is believed, doctrine, the received articles of faith.

† In light of the plethora of Scripture in the above chart, it seems unlikely that faith here in 2 Peter 1:1 means the ability to believe.

† Further, since it is by the knowledge of the Gospel that leads to salvation, it seems more likely given the context of verses 2-4 that it is the knowledge that is being given.

1. Underline the portions of the following passages that indicate the faith spoken of in 2 Peter 1:1 is best defined as A body of authoritative teaching. That which is believed, doctrine, the received articles of faith:

- v.2 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
- v.3 - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
- v.4 - by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2. Further, in light of the above passages in the chart, if we look at Jude 3 carefully we find that we are “to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Which definition of faith is Jude using?

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† Of faith (the ability to believe) described in 2 Peter 1:1, MacArthur writes: “Clearly it refers to something not obtained by human effort or based on personal worthiness but issued from God's sovereign purpose. Peter's readers received faith because God graciously willed to give it to them.” This is a Calvinistic position.

† He then references the following four passages of Scripture as evidence: Acts 11:15-17; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 1:13; Philippians 1:29. Answer the following questions based on each passage given as proof.

3. Acts 11:15-17, “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” Since Reformed theology teaches that people must be regenerated BEFORE belief, why does this passage NOT support this claim?

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4. Galatians 3:14, “that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” The argument is that faith is a gift that precedes salvation. How does this passage demonstrate the opposite?

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5. Ephesians 1:13, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” Offer three pieces of evidence that regeneration does NOT precede faith, and/or the true activity of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Philippians 1:29 is a difficult passage to interpret simply because of the Greek language: “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”

† The Greek verb rendered *has been granted* is from the noun meaning “grace, or graciously,” and denotes a free, unmerited favor or kindness from God (Ephesians 4:32; Romans 8:32).

† “has been granted on behalf of Christ” means that we have been given the privilege to do two things:

- a. “believe in Him”
- b. “suffer for His sake”

† Therefore, a more precise translation would be “for to you it has been granted the privilege not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”

7. How does Acts 5:41 shed light on the proper interpretation of Philippians 1:29?

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8. Both believing and suffering are present infinitives in Greek, thus indicating that the privilege of believing Christ and suffering for Him is not a once for all action but is continuous. Further, verse 29 begins with the conjunction “For,” and connects it to v.28. Read Philippians 1:27-30. What is the full context of v. 29?

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9. The privilege to believe for salvation and actually believing unto salvation are two different things.

‡ [For unto you] Unto you as Christians. This favor is granted unto you in your present circumstances.

‡ [It is given] God concedes to you this privilege or advantage.

‡ [In the behalf of Christ] In the cause of Christ, or with a view to honor Christ. Or, these things are brought on you in consequence of your being Christians.

‡ [Not only to believe on him] It is represented here as a privilege to be permitted to believe on Christ.

‡ Some argue that Ephesians 2:8, like Philipians 1:29 and 2 Peter 1:1, demonstrate evidence that faith is a gift from God only to the Elect, and therefore the Holy Spirit MUST regenerate a believer BEFORE he/she can believe or exercise that faith.

- Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."
- THAT not of yourselves; (touto, should be translated THIS and refers to salvation).
- The Greek pronoun touto, THIS, is in the neuter gender and cannot stand for pistis, faith, because pistis in the feminine.
- The antecedent of touto (THIS/THAT) is the whole sentence that goes before it.

10. What is the Gift of God then?

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11. Many ask, "Isn't faith the gift of God?" The simple answer is Yes, but as to the grace by which it is produced. Read Romans 10:17. From where do we get our faith?

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12. Without God's grace, nobody could EVER be saved. But the grace or power to believe, and the act of believing, are two different things. Read Ephesians 2:8 again. How are we saved, and by what means are we saved?

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13. If the Calvinists are right, and only the Elect will be given faith to believe, then God commands men to do something they are unable to do. Read Acts 17:30. What is the command and who is God commanding?

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. But God never believes for any man, any more than He repents for him. Each person must, through God's grace enabling him, repent and believe for himself. By God's grace man is enabled to repent and believe, but this doesn't ensure man WILL believe. How many exhortations are there in Scripture to believe? How many can believe but WON'T? How does Thomas exemplify this in John 20:25?

- "The other disciples therefore said to him, 'We have seen the Lord.' So he said to them, 'Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.'" It doesn't say he CANNOT believe, but WILL NOT!

15. How does John 5:39-40 also exemplify this idea that God doesn't give some faith, and not give others faith, thus completely taking free will out of the salvation equation?

- "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

16. How does Revelation 16:11 reveal the truth about men and their free will toward God?

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17. Going back the Ephesians 2:8, it seems clear that salvation does not proceed from the Holy Spirit specifically. The Greek word translated as "that" - touto - is in the neuter gender, and the word "faith" - pistis - is in the feminine. The word "that," therefore, does not refer particularly to faith as being the gift of God, but to "the salvation by grace" of which Paul had been speaking. Read Acts 26:16-18 and answer the following questions:

1. Specify why Jesus appeared to Saul?

○ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. To whom did Jesus specifically send Saul?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Offer four (4) specific things that Jesus wanted Saul to accomplish by sending him to the Gentiles:

○ \_\_\_\_\_  
○ \_\_\_\_\_  
○ \_\_\_\_\_  
○ \_\_\_\_\_

18. Bear in mind that Christ is the one (and only one) who has reconciled the world to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and offer two pieces of evidence Paul uses that demonstrates that it is our responsibility to believe and be saved, or in this case, accept the reconciliation already made. See also 1 Timothy 2:3-4

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

‡ As Christ had preached peace to all men (Ephesians 2:17) on the basis of what He would accomplish (Ephesians 2:16), Paul continued that proclamation in His stead. The immediate representative of God's message of reconciliation was Paul, whose ministry is shared by all who are "in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17,19). All believers should serve Christ as His ambassadors. Paul's appeal was not a perfunctory pronouncement but an impassioned plea ("we try to persuade men" [v. 11]) addressed to the world on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God (cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-4).

19. Lastly, read Revelation 12:9 and Luke 8:11-12, and answer the following questions:

1. In Revelation, what does the Devil do to the whole world?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Luke, what does the Devil do and what is the effect?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

20. If people are dead, as the Calvinists say, and must be regenerated BEFORE they can respond to the Gospel, what purpose does it serve for the Devil to deceive people, and why does Jesus say the Devil takes the Gospel away from the people, keeping them from being saved?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Position 2: Regeneration but No Permanent Indwelling

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### INDWELLING

- † For the Old Testament Saint, indwelling was not related to a person's spiritual qualities.
- † When the Spirit came upon someone in the OT, it was typically for a specific task.
- † As Saul found out (1 Samuel 16:14), the indwelling of the HS could be temporary.
- † There is some evidence that a few in the OT were permanently indwelled: Men such as Joseph, Joshua, David, and Daniel.

### REGENERATION

1. Some scholars believe that regeneration is implied by the phrase, "circumcision of the heart," used of OT believers. (Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; see also Ezekiel 11:19-20)
2. They also argue that OT regeneration is based on John 3: since Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again to enter the kingdom, and we know that OT Saints will be in the kingdom, so it follows that at some point in their life when they exercised faith, they were indeed regenerated.

### ACTUALLY, OT SAINTS WERE NOT PERMANENTLY INDWELLED BY THE SPIRIT

- † When we compare the New Testament treatment of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the activity of the Spirit in the Old Testament, there is really no biblical evidence of permanent soteriological indwelling of Old Testament Saints. Let's examine some specifics:

1. What does Jesus promise in John 7:38-39 that was NEVER promised to OT Saints? What is the living water?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. What three proofs does John offer in v. 39 to demonstrate that OT Saints were not included in Jesus' statement in v. 38?

- † "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

1. **OT Saints, including those believers to whom Jesus was speaking, did not have the Holy Spirit because:**

- \_\_\_\_\_

2. **THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE HS YET BECAUSE**

- \_\_\_\_\_

3. **THE HS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN YET BECAUSE**

- \_\_\_\_\_

3. We can break this into two parts: 1) The Holy Spirit had NOT YET been given, 2) The reason the HS had not yet been given is because Jesus had not yet completed His work. Let's examine the first part. What three pieces of evidence does Jesus offer about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 that seem to prove OT Saints were NOT indwelled permanently?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4. We know that the Holy Spirit was active in the OT in Creation (Genesis 1:2), that He strove with men (Genesis 6:3), and that He even filled men (Exodus 31:3). However, when comparing Haggai 2:5 with John 14:17, what is the difference between the two concerning the Holy Spirit's ministry?

○ Haggai 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_

○ John 14:17 - \_\_\_\_\_

† In John 14:16; 26; 15:26; & 16:7, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit using the Greek word *parakletos* that means helper, comforter, consoler, encourager, advocate, and mediator.

† Christ designates the Holy Spirit as Paraclete (John 14:16), and calls Him *állos* (another) which means another of the same or equal quality and not *héteros*, which means another of a different quality.

† Therefore, the Holy Spirit is designated by Jesus Christ as equal with Himself, i.e., God (1 John 2:1).

† This new Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, was to witness concerning Jesus Christ and to glorify Him (John 14:26; 16:7,14).

† The Holy Spirit is called a Paraclete because:

- He undertakes Christ's office in the world while Christ is not in the world as the God-Man in bodily form.
- He acts as Christ's substitute on earth.
- In a sense He has now replaced Jesus' physical presence; and He mediates God to believers.

† So, although the disciples had the Spirit with them in an Old Covenant sense, they did not have His ministry as the Paraclete, intimately and personally living in them, comforting them, and advocating for them in the New Covenant sense.

5. What does John 16:7 say about the restrictions placed on the Holy Spirit being given, and thus precludes OT Saints from being indwelt?

○ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. To further exemplify that only New Testament Saints are indwelt in contrast to OT Saints, we turn to Acts 19:2. During the transition from old to new covenant programs as recorded in Acts, what was Paul's test question to believers?

○ \_\_\_\_\_

7. If the people had not received the Holy Spirit when they believed, and were still considered old covenant Saints, what were the next two events that followed according to Acts 19:3-6? Remember, these were believers in the OT sense, but not yet indwelt by the Spirit in the NT sense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

8. The second part of John 7:39, and the reason the Holy Spirit had not been given, was that Jesus had not been glorified.

What does it mean that "Jesus was not yet glorified?" Read the following passages and explain what this means:

John 12:23 - John 12:27 - John 12:31-33

○ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

✚ Bottom line is that the Old Testament Saints could not have been indwelt because, as John said, the Holy Spirit had not been given because Christ had not yet been glorified.

## Position 3: No Regeneration and No Permanent Indwelling

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‡ Five Ministries of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Believer that were NOT Experienced by OT Saints: B.R.I.G.S.

- A. Baptizing
- B. Regeneration
- C. Indwelling
- D. Gifting
- E. Sealing

### A. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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The baptism of the Holy Spirit may be defined as that work whereby the Spirit of God places the believer at the moment of salvation into union with Christ and into union with other believers in the Body of Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Romans 6:1-4 and answer the following questions:

1. From 1 Corinthians, to whom are believers joined by this Spirit Baptism, and whose body are we placed in?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
2. From Romans, into whose body have we been baptized?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
3. From Romans, what does being in Christ's body mean for the believer?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
4. Read Ephesians 4:1-6, Romans 6:1-10, and Colossians 2:12-23. What two things do experiencing the one Spirit baptism serve as the basis for?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where in the OT do those who believe in God experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Five Ministries of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Believer that were NOT Experienced by OT Saints

- A. Baptizing
- B. Regeneration
- C. Indwelling
- D. Gifting
- E. Sealing

## **B & C. *Regeneration and Indwelling***

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These are specific ministries of the Holy Spirit for Church Age believers, and are not for OT Saints. While this has been covered previously in this study, there are at least four outcomes of regeneration and indwelling for the NT believer that the OT Saints simply did not have:

1. Impartation of the Divine Nature
2. Actual Sonship
3. Joint Heirship with Christ
4. Placement in the Household and Family of God

### **Outcome of Regeneration and Indwelling:**

#### **1. Impartation of the Divine Nature**

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6. 2 Peter 1:4 tells us that God “has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature.” The verse plainly says that believers are made “partakers of the divine nature” through God’s promises; but what does that mean, exactly? To what extent can we partake of God’s nature?

✠ The key to understanding this concept is to recognize what the Bible means when it refers to our “nature.” What does Romans 3:9; 23; and 5:12 say about mankind?

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7. Every human being is born with a sin nature (Romans 5:12; 7:14). Our natural selves cannot please God (Romans 8:8). Complete the chart below, answering the questions about our sin nature:

Psalm 51:5	When did we obtain our sin nature?	
Romans 3:9 Galatians 3:22	Who does sin effect? The Greek word for confine literally means: to shut together, shut in on all sides", is used of a catching fish in a net.	
Ephesians 2:1-3	How did our sin nature impact our daily lives?	
Romans 7:18-23	How does Paul describe the war between our old sin nature and our new nature?	
Galatians 5:17	Why can't we do good?	

8. We cannot free ourselves from sin because we cannot change our own natures, just as a tiger cannot change its own stripes. That's why we need a Savior. Jesus said there is only one way we can get a new, divine nature. He said, "You must be born again" (John 3:3). Only a complete new birth can bring about the radical change of nature required to fellowship with a holy God. Mental agreement with God's Word is not enough to obtain a new nature. Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5 tell us that we must be "saved" from our old nature, and our salvation even implies that we were helpless and we have been rescued from the evil bent of our human nature. The moment we come to Christ in faith, accepting His death and resurrection as our substitute for the punishment of sin, the Holy Spirit "births" us into the family of God. Underline the pertinent portions of the following Scripture passages that demonstrates what happens to us and how our nature has changed:

Romans 6:3-6	Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
Romans 6:14	For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
2 Corinthians 5:17	Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
Colossians 3:1-10	If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What is the “divine exchange” that takes place? What does this mean for our nature?

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10. Believers have a divine nature and no longer have to be enslaved to the passions and sins of the flesh (Romans 6:6, 14). 1 John 3:9 says, “No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine seed, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.” AMP When we share in His divine nature, we begin to desire the things God desires. We love what He loves and hate what He hates. How does Galatians 5:22-26 demonstrate this?

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11. As believers who have been born again, we are given a new nature. Our dual nature gives us an opportunity to decide to what we will present ourselves slaves of: sin or righteousness.

Romans 6:16	What is the warning, and what are the consequences both positive and negative?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Romans 6:17-18	Give the before and after.	<p>Before:</p> <p>After:</p>
Romans 6:19	What are the two choices and what are the two consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Romans 6:14	Why do we have the choice: sin or righteousness?	
1 Corinthians 10:13	Why are we able to conquer every temptation that comes against us?	
<p>God declares that we are “more than conquerors” because of the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within our hearts (Romans 8:37). Sin no longer controls the one who has become a partaker of the divine nature.</p>		
John 6:56; 14:17; 14:23;	Who dwells in the believer?	
John 16:33; 1 John 4:4	What is the result of God dwelling in us?	

## Outcome of Regeneration and Indwelling: 2-3. Actual Sonship & Joint Heirs with Christ & 4. Placement in the Household and Family of God

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Ephesians 2:19 tells us specifically states, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

Two other aspects of our Holy Spirit Regeneration and Indwelling is becoming actual sons and heirs of God.

### *Galatians 3:22-29*

22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

***Sons and Heirs*** 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

✠ In order to fully grasp the Word's argument, we must examine the Greek word for *tutor* in greater detail. During the time of the Roman Empire, not all children were legally considered sons. Children were raised by slaves or servants and had no rights or responsibilities as to the father's estate or business. This means that there was no legal standing for the child until he was declared mature, and only after this declaration would he be entitled to any inheritance. While the word *tutor* does mean schoolmaster, here it carries more force, in that the tutor in the household was responsible for keeping a child away from evil deeds by way of harsh discipline. In the same way the servant taught morals and standards to the child, the Law was used to teach the Jews the standards and requirements of God and bring them to maturity, as full sons and heirs. Comparatively, when the children of Roman citizens reached full maturity, they would be legally established as full heirs, and the tutor was no longer responsible for them. There is a correlation between the Roman child's inheritance being granted upon full maturity, and the way the Jews were brought to full maturity concerning their inheritance of eternal life. The Lord was longsuffering, using the Law to show His people they needed faith, and that not by their works could they come to full maturity. We should consider that in Galatians 3:24, in the original language, the words *to bring us* are not found, but were added by the English translators for ease of understanding (they are probably shown in italics in your Bible). The verse should then read, "*Therefore the law was our tutor to Christ.*" Further, verses 23 and 25 should both include an article before *faith* which demonstrates that this is in reference to Christ as *the faith*. Therefore, the Law was given as a tutor to teach the Jews the standards and requirements of God. This was only temporary, as the Jews, by way of the Law, should have come to full maturity, realizing that justification could not come by the Law because they couldn't keep it, and been driven to Christ, the person in whom they might put their faith, and become sons.

12. Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum (Ariel Ministries) has concluded in his Messianic Bible Study on Galatians that there are three results of justification by faith as Paul segues from verse 24 to verses 25-26. Read these verses and see if you can draw the same conclusions. Don't forget that the Law was given to the Jews for a specific purpose.

<b>Three Results of Justification by Faith</b>
Galatians 3:24-26 "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
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13. Verses 25 and 26 should be taken together. To begin, the *For* that starts 26 is better rendered *because*, and should read *because you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus*. There is no Scriptural evidence for the Universal Fatherhood of God or the Universal Brotherhood of men. All mankind are not sons, in the legal sense, thus only those who put their faith in Christ are sons of God and receive the inheritance of God. The Bible uses two Greek words for son, sometimes translated *child* or *children*. The context of the passages should be used to determine the translation. Complete the chart below, answering each question with the verses provided. This will give you a better understanding of sonship.

Bible References	Question	Pertaining to Sonship
Galatians 3:25-26	What makes one a son?	
Romans 8:14	What is the distinction that marks a son?	
Romans 8:16	Who is it that stands as a witness to our sonship?	
Romans 8:17	If we are sons of God, what three things are granted to us?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
John 1:12-13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-2 What two stipulations must be met before one is rendered a son?</li> <li>3. What is granted as a result?</li> <li>4. Why does this verse stand in direct opposition to the Universal Fatherhood of God?</li> <li>5. Why do we become sons of God?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>

14. We are often confronted with the argument that all mankind are children of God, and the proof offered is from Genesis 1:26, and other verses, that state that God made man in His image. Paul offers us a very different picture of who God's sons are in Galatians 3:26. Man was made in God's "image" and "likeness" which is then explained as his having dominion over God's creation as vice-regent. Genesis 1:1 is similar, citing man's God-given glory, honor, and rule. God's image obviously does not consist in man's body which was formed from earthly matter, but in his spiritual, intellectual, moral likeness to God from whom His animating breath came. The emphasis of the prohibition of idols is that they are all materially created things. God is non-material, the creator (Genesis 1:1-2). This spiritual aspect of man has been damaged by the fall and is daily tarnished by sin. But it was seen in perfection in Christ and will be made perfect in us when salvation is complete (Genesis 1:1). Complete the chart, and draw a conclusion as to why the argument that all mankind should be considered a son of God is erroneous.

Bible References	Evidence Against the Universal Fatherhood of God
Romans 5:10; 8:7, Colossians 1:20-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Ephesians 2:2-3	
John 8:43-44	
John 14:6	
Draw a conclusion.	

15. We are sons through adoption, having been given this right through belief: John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children (sons) of God, to those who believe in His name.” Complete the chart below:

Bible References	Evidence of Sonship
Romans 8:14	
2 Corinthians 6:17-18	
Galatians 3:26	
Galatians 4:6-7	

16. Unlike OT Saints, NT believers are reborn, regenerated, indwelled, become joint heirs, sons (in a legal sense), have God actually living in them, are new creations, have their minds renewed, are gifted for ministry, and have been given the divine nature. To this we should add the fact that the NT believer becomes an unalterable temple of the Holy Spirit that belongs only to this age of the Church and has no place in the provisions of Judaism. How does 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 demonstrate this truth?

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17. Compare 2 Corinthians 6:16 with Leviticus 26:11-12, Jeremiah 24:7, and Ezekiel 37:27. How does 2 Corinthians 6:16 demonstrate that the OT believers were NOT considered to be Temples of God, nor indwelled by the Holy Spirit?

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Five Ministries of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Believer that were NOT Experienced by OT Saints

- A. Baptizing
- B. Regeneration
- C. Indwelling
- D. Gifting
- E. Sealing

### D. Gifting

The Holy Spirit empowers each believer with one or more Spiritual Gifts that enable Christians to perform their service in the building up the church. Spiritual Gifts are essential for believers to effectively serve God, and no amount of raw natural ability can substitute for Spiritual Gifts.

1. Read Ephesians 4:8-12. What four (4) gifts did Christ leave to men upon His ascension? For what two (2) reasons were the gifts given?

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2. Keeping in mind that 1 Corinthians 12:7 teaches that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all,” why does God use the image of a body to demonstrate why the Holy Spirit empowers individual believers with Spiritual Gifts? Complete the chart below underlining the pertinent information to find the answer.

Bible References	Why the Image of a Body?
Romans 12:4-8	For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
1 Corinthians 7:7	For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13	There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
1 Peter 4:10-11	As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
Draw a Conclusion:	

3. With the possible exception of the temporary filling of OT Saints for specific ministries, where in the OT does the Holy Spirit empower believers with specific gifts for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the Body of Christ?

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Five Ministries of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Believer that were NOT Experienced by OT Saints

- A. Baptizing
- B. Regeneration
- C. Indwelling
- D. Gifting
- E. Sealing

## E. Sealing

New Testament Believers, unlike the OT Saints, are, at the moment of salvation, sealed by the Holy Spirit. It is because the Spirit has sealed us that we are assured of our salvation. No one can break the seal of God.

- ✚ The Greek word translated SEAL literally means to close up and make fast with a seal signet such as letters or books so that they may not be read.
- ✚ The Greek word translated GUARANTEE can also be translated as earnest money, and a pledge, and means something which stands for part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction. Used of the Holy Spirit which God has given to believers in this present life to assure them of their future and eternal inheritance. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a “first installment” to assure us that our full inheritance as children of God will be delivered.

Bible References	Question	Pertaining to Sealing
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	What three other actions are associated with our sealing?	1. 2. 3.
Ephesians 1:13-14	How long will the sealing last?	
Ephesians 4:30	When will we be redeemed? Read Philippians 3:20-21	
2 Corinthians 5:5 Read the context of 1-10	How does this context demonstrate that this guarantee is only for the Church?	

## Three Challenges to the No Regeneration/Not Permanently Indwelled Position

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1. Old Testament *Indwelling Language*
2. Old Testament *Heart Circumcision*
3. John 3

### 1. OT *Indwelling Language*

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† Several OT passages seem to describe the Spirit as being *in* someone. Let's examine several examples seeking to compare them with what we've studied about the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

1. Joseph in Genesis 41:38, "And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?'" If we take into consideration that the Hebrews word translated as IN can also be translated as WITH, and compare v. 38 with v. 39, is it possible that WITH is a better translation? What two factors can you see in the text that may demonstrate Joseph was NOT permanently indwelled?

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2. Joshua in Numbers 27:18, "And the Lord said to Moses: 'Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.'" Compare this with Deuteronomy 34:9. What evidence is there that might indicate Joshua was permanently indwelled?

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✠ Daniel in Daniel 4:8-9, “But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying: ‘Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.’” Also Daniel 5:11, “There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God.” In the cases of Joseph and Daniel a pagan is making the evaluation, which we must consider. Add to that that the same Hebrew word translated IN can also be translated WITH. That being said, the easiest way to demonstrate that Daniel (and the others) were NOT permanently indwelled is by examining the NT texts used to distinguish OT abiding from NT permanent indwelling – John 7:38; John 14:16-17; and Psalm 51:11.

Bible References	Question	Pertaining to Sealing
John 7:38-39	What is the restrictive time frame from Holy Spirit indwelling that would make OT indwelling impossible?	
John 14:16-17	What are the two restrictions for the giving of the Holy Spirit?	1.  2.
Psalm 51:11	How does this passage indicate the Holy Spirit was not permanently indwelling David?	

## Three Challenges to the No Regeneration/Not Permanently Indwelled Position

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1. Old Testament *Indwelling Language*
2. Old Testament *Heart Circumcision*
3. John 3

### 2. OT Heart Circumcision

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‡ Is Regeneration of OT believers by the Holy Spirit implied by the phrase, “circumcision of the heart”?

1. What do the following passages have in common: Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4. How is this contrary to the NT, especially when read in light of regeneration?

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2. In Leviticus 26:40-42 and Deuteronomy 10:16, what is the purpose of circumcising the heart?

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3. How does this link to repentance carry into the NT? Read Acts 7:51 for the answer.

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4. Doesn't Deuteronomy 30:6 describe a sovereign work of God in the hearts of His people that sounds like regeneration? Include the context of vs. 1-5 in your analysis. Compare with Jeremiah 24:7 and 31:31-34.

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5. Using Ezekiel 36:26-27, offer two pieces of evidence that demonstrates that having a new heart is not the same as Holy Spirit indwelling or regeneration for Old Testament Saints.

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6. Read Romans 2:29 and Colossians 2:11-14. How does Paul demonstrate that heart circumcision is a NT experience?

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7. What about Saul in 1 Samuel 10:9 of whom it is said, “God gave him another heart”? Read 1 Samuel 10:1-10. What do the following passages tell you about this event in relation to regeneration?

Bible References	Was Saul Regenerated?
1 Samuel 10:6-7	
1 Samuel 10:9-10	
1 Samuel 16:14; 18:12	
Compare with Judges 6:34	
<b>OT HEART CIRCUMCISION CONCLUSIONS:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ When God commands heart circumcision in the OT, it appears to stand for humility and repentance.</li> <li>✚ Moreover, the heart circumcision that God promises to perform is a special future work in conjunction with God’s restoration of national Israel.</li> <li>✚ The OT never describes anyone as having undergone heart circumcision resulting in a particular spiritual state.</li> <li>✚ Finally, in the NT Paul draws a general analogy between circumcision and the salvation experience of the church-age believer.</li> </ul>	

## Three Challenges to the No Regeneration/Not Permanently Indwelled Position

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1. Old Testament *Indwelling Language*
2. Old Testament *Heart Circumcision*
3. John 3

### 3. John 3

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- † John 3:3-8, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?’” Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
  - † In this passage Jesus tells Nicodemus, “unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (v. 3) When Nicodemus expresses incredulity, Jesus asks in John 3:10, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Theologians, dispensationalists included, take Jesus’ teaching on the new birth in John 3 as proof that OT Saints experienced regeneration:
  - † For example, according to Pettegrew, “Jesus carefully explained to Nicodemus the fact that to enter the kingdom, everyone had to be ‘born again,’ or regenerated (John 3:1-21). We know that old covenant Saints will be in the kingdom (Matt 8:11), so at some point in their existence, surely when they exercised faith, they were indeed regenerated.”
  - † Stallard notes further that Jesus expected Nicodemus as a teacher of Israel to understand His claim that everyone who wants to enter the kingdom of God must be born again.
1. In response, it is not necessarily the case that Jesus assumes here a ministry of the Spirit that was already taking place under the OT economy. It is true that as Jesus speaks of the new birth here He is still living under the old covenant. However, His words are looking forward to something that is to come, even as He expects Nicodemus to understand the new birth based on OT predictions. How can we conclude that Jesus was speaking about a future Holy Spirit ministry from Ezekiel 36:24-27?

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2. As Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus about the combination of water, spirit, and Spirit [in John 3], Nicodemus should have recalled the same elements in Ezekiel 36:25-27 and the relationship between them. Jesus was not expecting Nicodemus to KNOW about the new birth as if it had already been going on, but rather as what was yet to come. Offer three pieces of evidence from John 7:38-39 that demonstrates the giving of the Spirit was future and not past.

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3. Jesus presents His teaching on the new birth clearly in the context of His being lifted up and the need to believe in Him for eternal life (John 3:13-16). According to these passages, when was the age of the Spirit, and thus birth from above to begin?

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4. To a Jew with the background and convictions of Nicodemus, 'to see the kingdom of God' was to participate in the kingdom at the end of the age, to experience eternal, resurrection life. How do the following passages convey the relationship between NT believers and the ideas of kingdom and citizenship?

○ Colossians 1:13

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○ Philippians 3:20

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5. It is more reasonable that Jesus' explanation of being born of the water and Spirit should have brought to Nicodemus' mind the prophecies of Ezekiel 36:24-27; Joel 2:28-29; and Zechariah 12:10. Prove that Jesus is NOT speaking of OT Saints experiencing regeneration?

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6. So, according to John 3:3-8, what is the only criterion to enter the Kingdom?

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7. Who gives this kingdom life, and what is the requirement? Read John 6:63 for proof.

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8. If, as John seems to imply, regeneration would come to those who believe in Jesus, and that would only be after Jesus was glorified and the Spirit given (John 7:38-39), why must we think that this regenerating work was operative before the coming of Jesus especially IF:

- a. Jesus is referencing a regenerating work of the Spirit that was only *predicted* in the OT?
- b. That work will come *now* to those who believe in Jesus?
- c. That work is necessary for those *now hearing Jesus* to enter into His coming kingdom?

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9. Although Paul Enns (Moody Handbook of Theology) acknowledges that Ezekiel 36:25-27 predicts Israel's regeneration in the millennium, he believes OT Saints experienced regeneration based on Ezekiel 18:31, where God tells Israel to "get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit." The problem with this interpretation is that it ignores the context. Read Ezekiel 18:30-32, and explain the real salvation activity that doesn't have anything to do with the Holy Spirit?

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**\*Adapted from *Spirit Regeneration and Indwelling of OT Saints: A Study in Dispensational Distinctions* by Ken Gardoski, Ph.D.**