

characteristic of new birth. The old man is an unbeliever in every degree; the new is a believer in every degree. Adam's fall was in consequence of disobedience of God's word, the offspring of unbelief and distrust of God Himself. His nature thus became a prey to this adverse sentiment, which acting and re-acting on his fellow-men, has produced all the contumacy toward God of which man is guilty. The grace of God in every age has been above man's guilt, and therefore He has *compelled* many to come in; in one way or another awakening the soul to the sense of the existence of God, either as a relief or a correction to its ignorance; in a word, giving it faith in God, through the word of God.

The Spirit of God has always been the propagator of this new principle, so that where the smallest germ of it exists, there, blessed be God, the Holy Ghost has worked. The old man is utterly incapable of faith in God; therefore, wherever faith works, however feebly, new birth has taken place. And mark, it has been thus in *all* dispensations. The difference between the old testament times and the new, or the present, consists not in the principle of existence, for that is the same in both; and, moreover, it is begotten by the same Holy Spirit; but now eternal life is assured to us as God's gift, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has brought life and incorruptibility to light by the gospel.

New birth then is a new existence. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature," of which faith in God is its very principle, its first and simplest

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