

*of an earthly or carnal nature.* Not by the influence of long and dignified ancestry, for they were born not of *bloods*. Nor yet by physical efforts, for the will of the *flesh*, is explicitly denied having any influence whatever in their divine birth. Nor can the greatest efforts of the greatest men signified by the *will of man*, (i. e. the *great* man) be of any use. It is a work *too* great for the greatest man. Men may speak great swelling words about their free-will, and fine doings, but nothing short of omnipotent power will ever form a man for God's glory.

3. *That it is entirely of God.* Jehovah is the *sole* cause and agent in this *great* and *mighty* work. He is the *primeval* cause, the *procuring* cause, and the *procreative* cause. They were born, *not* of blood, *nor* of the will of the flesh, *nor* of the will of man, *BUT*—what a *turn*! what a reverse! what a blow at the system of offered grace! This *but*, loosens all the materials, and destroys all the strong holds of arminianism. *But* of God. What a thunderbolt has Christ hurled at all such carnal doctrine. Arminianism and Fullerism must receive a most terrible concussion; for it 'smites the *great* house with breaches, and the little house with clefts,' and renders them both alike *untenable*. I will now illustrate this subject by two or three metaphors.

*First.* Regeneration is compared to creation. "The new man," said the apostle, "which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. iii. 24. It will be seen that this metaphor illustrates the point before us in a very easy and forcible manner. The reader cannot fail to notice the following things.

1. To create, is to bring something into existence that had not a being before. Regeneration, if it answers to the figure, must denote something brought into *existence*.

2. When God created the heavens and the earth, he did not work upon matter that was in existence before, this would have been *modifying* the heavens and the earth, and not *creating* them. When God regenerates a sinner, he does not work *old nature* into