































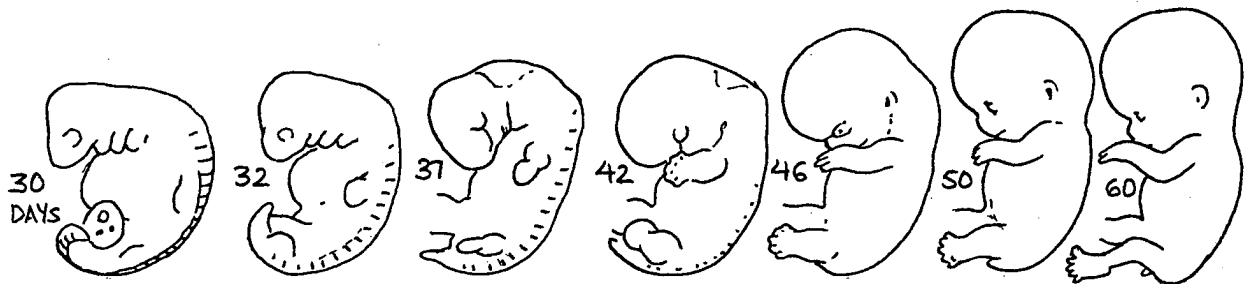






The Lord can't regenerate us if we don't cooperate. All our lives the Lord gives us interior good feelings that remain with us (that is why they are called "remains"). These good feelings do not become a part of us, really belong to us, until we choose to express them in an orderly life. Then our good actions are like a "body" in which these good affections can function.

The process whereby the Lord changes us can be illustrated by the development of the embryo.



In the first two months of prenatal life, the embryo's external appearance gradually becomes more and more human. We have to make our life look more and more "human" by ordering our thoughts and actions. We do this by learning from the Word what is true and good, and making ourselves act in accordance with the Lord's teachings.

The baby is not nearly ready to be born. If it were born at two months it would die immediately. It must spend the next seven months growing and strengthening. It learns to suck and swallow, to grasp and kick, and to expand its lungs in preparation for breathing. Only then is it ready to be born and live as a person. In the same way, for a new will to be born in us, we must form a functioning body for it—a body of true thought and good actions.



For our infant spiritual "body" to grow, we must nourish it with spiritual food. The teachings of the Lord's Word will nurture and sustain us through all the states of our life in this world, and through all the eternity of heavenly life.

