

August 4, 2019

In Christ: Water Baptism

Christ means “the Anointed One” from the verb *chrío* meaning “to anoint” referring to the consecration rites of a priest or king. It is translated in Hebrew to *Mashiyach*, (Mashiach) meaning “Messiah.” Christian means “little anointed one.” Anointing is symbolic of empowerment through the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament when a king or priest was put into office, they went through an **anointing ritual**, where words were spoken over them as they had oil poured on them. In the New Testament, we lay hands on people, pray and anoint with oil to put them in positions of Leadership. We also anoint people with oil to release the anointing for healing. **Rev 5:10** *And have made us **kings and priests** to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.*” Being **in Christ** is living in the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

Mark 6:12-13 *So they went out and preached that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons, and **anointed with oil** many who were sick, and healed them.*

Acts 10:36-39 *Jesus Christ — He is Lord of all — 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee **after the baptism** which John preached: 38 how **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**, who went about doing good and **healing all** who were **oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him. To be “oppressed by the devil” means to suffer mentally or physically by demonic forces, not necessarily the Devil himself. Sickness, pain, fear, anxiety, depression, anger, lust, poverty, curses, and other bondages are oppression by the devil. Not every issue that causes us to suffer is from the devil, but every issue we suffer, is destroyed by the blood of Jesus because He came to give us life, and give it more abundantly (**Jn 10:10**).*

1 John 3:8-9 *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil**.*

2 Cor 1:21-22 *He who establishes us with you **in Christ** and has **anointed us** is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. In Christ we are anointed from God; empowered by the Holy Spirit. We destroy the works of the devil! We set free all those who are “oppressed” by the devil.*

Once we give our life to Jesus Christ, and ask Him into our heart, we are given the Holy Spirit to help us understand who we are “in Christ.” To be “in” something means to be surrounded and totally submerged. The **ritual** we do by faith to be “submerged” in Christ is **water baptism**. Rituals are something we do by faith in the physical realm to connect us to the spiritual realm, allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us. The spiritual realm controls the physical realm.

Jesus went through the ritual of water baptism, the heavens opened, and He was empowered by the Holy Spirit

Matt 3:16-17 *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the **heavens were opened** to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Jesus did not perform any miracles until He was baptized and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. This is when His ministry officially began. He received His “anointing” as Messiah through the empowering of the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill prophecy and declare “*Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,*” (**Matt 4:17**). Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom of Heaven by signs and wonders through the power of the Holy Spirit. We walk in the same power! This is The Power, The Promise, The Holy Spirit from the Kingdom of God for us today!

Luke 4:1 *Then Jesus, being **filled with the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness, After Jesus was water baptized, He was **filled** and **led** by the Holy Spirit.*

John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus will **baptize us** with the **Holy Spirit and fire** (boldness) so we can demonstrate (just like Jesus did) the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! We are to “give witness” of God’s mighty power.

Matt 3:11 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** -John Paul wrote in **Rom 6:2-14** that when we are water baptized our sinful nature is shattered.*

Life Song Church: Living the Power of Praise!