

July 19, 2020

The Power of Water Baptism

There are no examples of infants being baptized in the Bible because baptism is an expression of our repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches about **infant dedication** which is an act of faith by the parents.

***Baptism**, Strong's # 908; Greek *baptisma* (bap-tis-ma): From the verb baptize, to dip or immerse. In Christian baptism the stress is on the baptized person's identification with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. The word describes the experience of a convert from initial acceptance of Christ to initiation into the Christian community. *From Word Wealth SFLB. Salvation puts Christ in us and water baptism puts us in Christ (**Gal 3:28**) and allows the Holy Spirit to **rest or alight upon us. Distinction: in us and on us.**

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 immersed. The **ritual** we do by faith to be "immersed" 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 did not perform any miracles until He was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit's power. 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! We walk in resurrection power.

Jesus went through the **ritual of water baptism**, the heavens opened, and He was empowered by the Holy Spirit and the voice of God **manifested** into this physical realm.

On the Day of Pentecost Peter preached his **first message** under the power of the Holy Spirit and said, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins*" (**Acts 2:38**). Paul wrote in **Rom 6:2-3** that when we are baptized our sinful nature is shattered. Jesus did not need to repent; He was sinless, so why did He need to be water baptized?

Answer: to fulfill prophecy and to be filled (and led) with the power of the Holy Spirit. To show us there is a water baptism that includes a Holy Spirit baptism.

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.*

Water baptism does not remove our sin, but it shatters our **sinful nature** as we now walk in the revelation of God's grace; the power of the Holy Spirit not only in us (salvation) but on us (Kingdom power). Being "filled with the Spirit" means He permeates every area of our lives; nothing is hidden. Once we are filled with the Holy Spirit, there is no longer room for sin and we are made pure of heart. This allows us to be and walk in the **righteousness of God**.

Matt 3:13-17 *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 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."*

The Prophecies: The Spirit of the Lord Upon the Lord

Isa 61:1-3 *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of*

praise for the spirit of heaviness; That **they may be called trees of righteousness**, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

God's righteousness has 2 main components; His grace and His judgment. These 2 work together to bring justice.

Isa 11:1-2,4 There shall come forth a **Rod** from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall **rest upon Him**,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
4 But with **righteousness** He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall **strike the earth with the rod of His mouth**, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the **increase of His government and peace There will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice **From that time forward**, even forever. **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**

Zeal: When Jesus cleansed the Temple with a whip, His disciples said His zeal reminded them of Ps 69:9

Ps 69:9 Because **zeal for Your house** has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Jesus never appeased sin, or watered down the Word of God. He defended the Word of God! We do the same! This zeal for Christians is God's consuming fire, the baptism of fire in the Holy Spirit. Get fired up! **Zeal; emotionally charged!**

***ZEAL:** Enthusiastic devotion; eager desire; single-minded allegiance (2 Sam 21:2; 2 Kings 10:16; 19:31). The psalmist wrote, "Zeal for Your house has eaten me up" (Ps 69:9). When Jesus cleansed the Temple, His zeal reminded the disciples of the psalmist's words (John 2:17). Even before he became a Christian, Paul was zealous toward God and the law of Moses (Acts 22:3; Phil 3:6). *from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986

***ZEAL:** A passionate ardour for any person or cause. There are various kinds of zeal; as, 1. An ignorant zeal, Rom 10:2,3. — 2. A persecuting zeal, Phil 3:6. — 3. A superstitious zeal, 1 Kings, 18. Gal 1:14. — 4. An hypocritical zeal, 2 Kings 10:16. — 5. A contentious zeal, 1 Cor 11:16. — 6. A partial zeal, Hos 7:8. — 7. A temporary zeal, 2 Kings, xii. and 13. Gal 4:15,16. — 8. a genuine zeal, which is a sincere and warm concern for the glory of God, and the spiritual welfare of mankind. This is generally compounded of sound knowledge, strong faith, and disinterested regard; and will manifest itself by self-denial, patient endurance, and constant exertion. The motives to true zeal are, 1. The divine command, Rev 3:19. — 2. The example of Christ, Acts 10:38. — 3. The importance of the service of Christ. — 4. The advantage and pleasure it brings to the possessor. — 5. The instances and honourable commendation of it in the Scriptures: Moses, Phineas, Caleb, David, Paul, &c. Gal 4:18; Rev 3:15, &c. Titus 2:14. — 6. The incalculable good effects it produces on others, James 5:20. See Reynolds and Orton on Sacred Zeal; Evan's Christian Temper, ser. 37; Hughes's Sermon on Zeal; Mason's Christ. Mor. ser. 28. *from Buck's Theological Dictionary. Biblesoft Copyright © 2015 by Biblesoft

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 evil forces. 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. We **expose** (reprove; convict, convince, tell a fault, admonish, warn) the unfruitful works of darkness.

John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus will **baptize us** with the **Holy Spirit and fire** 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.

BUT, we have to first see it, believe it, receive it and speak it.

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 *fire is boldness and zeal of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:5,8 *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now....8 But you shall **receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come **upon you**; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* These were the last words Jesus spoke before He ascended into Heaven. John baptizes with water, but Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father **upon you**; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with **power from on high.***"

Acts 4:33 *And with **great power** the apostles **gave witness** to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.*

Power: Strong’s #1411 *dunamis*; compare dynamic and dynamite, energy, power, might, great force, great ability, strength. It describes the power of Heaven working on earth.

The “great power” is to give witness that Jesus has risen from the dead and establish His Kingdom.

Matt 9:28-30 *And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "**According to your faith let it be to you.**"*

Do you believe Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire?

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