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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 emphasis 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.

Gal 3:26-29 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs** according to the promise.*

Salvation puts **Christ in us** and **water baptism** puts **us in Christ** and allows the Holy Spirit to rest or alight upon us. In Christ we become joint heirs with Jesus and walk in His authority as kings and priests.

Gal 4:6-7 *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "**Abba, Father!**" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an **heir of God through Christ**.*

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 to build and advance the Kingdom of God! 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.

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. 16 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."*

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 into the wilderness where He fasted and prayed 40 days and at the end Satan came to tempt Him, but every time Jesus replied "It is written!" and quoted Scripture to Satan.

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**.

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.

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.

Have you been water baptized with the knowledge and expectation of the Holy Spirit coming upon you?