

DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

The Bible teaches about three different baptisms: 1) Baptism into Christ, 2) Baptism in water, and 3) Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Bible makes reference to other baptisms, but they are unclear. For instance, the Bible talks about the baptism of fire. I do not know what the baptism of fire is, so there is no value in trying to create a doctrine around something that you do not know.

The Greek word for “baptize” means to immerse or place something into something else. In ancient Greek writings the word “baptize” is used to describe a sinking ship. If a ship went down at sea, they would use the Greek word “baptizo” to describe what happened. This is an important concept. Understanding this will help us understand the different doctrines of baptism.

I Corinthians 12:13 says, *“For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body...”* The first baptism that we experience when we become a new believer occurs when we are born again. The Holy Spirit baptized (immersed) us into the body of Christ. Because we are placed (baptized) into Jesus’ body, we no longer relate to God on our own merit. We are now in Christ. We relate to God on the merit of the righteousness of Jesus. We are hid in Him.

Take special note every time you see the words “in Him,” “through Him,” “in Christ” or “by Him.” These are all making references of what we have because we are in Jesus. We are to relate to God from the perspective of being in Him. We are no longer in the flesh. We are in Jesus. We are not relating to God on what our ability can earn us. When you are born again, the Spirit of God baptizes you into the body of Christ.

In baptism, we have the person doing the baptizing, the one being baptized, and the element into which they are baptized. In this case the person doing the baptizing is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ. We are the ones being baptized, and the element we are baptized into is the body of Christ. This will become important as we look into some of the other aspects of baptism.

The next baptism is the baptism in water. Jesus commanded His followers to

be baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. In the Great Commission, He told His followers to go into all the world, preach the gospel, and baptize all who believe.

Matthew 28:19 says, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”* Throughout the book of Acts we see the early church obeying this commandment. All early Christians were baptized by immersion in water. Throughout the years baptism has become a ceremony or ritual that has very little meaning for the new believer. This is definitely not the plan of God. According to the archives of the Catholic Church, for about the first 300 years of Catholicism they taught that the only acceptable form of baptism was by immersion. Baptism by sprinkling became something that was developed through the years in order to placate the wealthy. Also, when they went out on crusades, they would get thousands of people together and say, “die or become Christians.” After that, they would throw water on them and call them Christians -- because they threw some water on them. That is not what baptism is really about.

You must remember that everything we receive from God is a work of grace through faith. Ceremony has no value apart from faith and grace. Ceremony does have value when grace and faith are a part of it. When a believer is baptized in water he should believe (this is where he operates faith) that God has something specific for him to experience, and he should be empowered (that is grace) in an area of his life.

Communion is a ceremony. When taking Communion you should believe that something specific will happen and you should be empowered. You should experience something in your heart that strengthens your walk with God. Ceremonies are designed to give us a specific way to experience God’s realities.

Does the whole world have salvation? That is a yes and no answer. Yes, they had it given, but no; they have not received and experienced it. Technically, our sins are already forgiven, so people say, “Okay then, 1 John 1:9 says to confess my sin. Why should I confess my sin if it is already forgiven?” There is a whole group of people that will teach you not to confess your sins.

Ceremonies are actions designed to give us a place to experience what God has given us. In other words, works do not make it happen. Faith makes it happen, but we come to experience this through certain works. Ceremonies facilitate experience.

An example that I like to use is, when my children were growing up there would be many times when they would do things that I knew they did. They did not know that I knew. Even though what they did may have hurt and disappointed me, in my heart I forgave them. However, they were not experiencing that forgiveness, even though it was in my heart. They would walk around feeling guilty. It is sometimes humorous to watch how kids do that. When your kids get mad, when they come in and go to their room and do not talk to you, that is very often guilt. They are avoiding you and staying away. My children would be angry with me and depressed. My forgiveness already existed, but they had not yet experienced it.

Several times over the years they would walk around miserable for a few days, weeks, or months, and finally we would sit down and talk. They would occasionally come to me -- occasionally. The parent usually initiates. That is the way it is with God. He is always saying, "Come on. Get back in fellowship with me. Talk to me. Come on, let's get this thing worked out." You go to your kids and say, "Tell me what is wrong. Talk to me." They finally come out and tell you what is wrong. You forgave them a month ago when you found out about it, but they experience this relief when they tell you. It is over and they know that it is over. I had already forgiven them, but they did not benefit from it until they experienced it. That is the way it is between God and us. He has already given the forgiveness. That is why we come and get back in fellowship with Him and confess. God always has steps for us to take that cause us to experience what He has freely given in Jesus. It does not benefit you until you experience it.

Mark 16:16 says, "*He that believes and is baptized shall be saved (sozo).*" This is not talking about a requirement for getting born again. Baptism has a lot to do with experiencing *sozo* in every area of life. The prerequisite for baptism is to be a believer. In other words, baptism is not for young children or the unconverted.

Romans 6:4 says, "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death.*" Baptism is where we identify with the death of Jesus. Romans 6:6 says, "*Knowing this, that our old man (your old, sinful nature) was crucified with him.*" Jesus became our sin while on the cross, therefore, our sinful nature died with him. If that sinful man died with Him, then we are dead with Him. Romans 6:11 says, "*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our*

Lord.” The word “reckon” means “to consider it so.” If you believe that you died with Christ, you need to consider yourself dead to sin. Grace will give you the power to live free from sin. One of the problems you have with temptation is not considering yourself really free from sin. If you are dead to sin, it does not mean that you never sin. It does not mean that you will never be tempted. It means that you do not have to do it. You may give in, but you know you do not have to.

Romans 7:1 says this, *“Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?”* If we have not died with Jesus, then we are still under the law. Everybody that is not born again is still under the law. They are still trying to relate to God on the basis of their performance. They do not have Jesus. They do not have the free gift of righteousness. They have not received that free gift.

Romans 7:4, *“So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.”* We are dead to the law because we died with Christ. We do not look to the law for righteousness. We are alive to God, therefore, we are under grace (God’s ability) not law (our ability).

The law is the only thing that gives sin power. The Bible teaches that the law is the strength of sin. As long as a person is under law, sin has power in their life. There are several reasons for this. First, we have to depend on our own ability under the law. Second, we know that when you focus on what you should not do, you become drawn to it because you are focusing on it. In Romans 7, Paul said that the passions of sin were alive in us by the law. The law stirs up sin. People who try to relate to God on the basis of the law (works, performance) always end up in sin because they are stuck in their own ability.

We died with Christ on the cross, therefore, we are dead to the law. The reason we are dead to sin is because we are dead to the law. The law does not apply to dead people. The only way to be free from the law is to die. You begin to see when you look at the foundations of faith, (and this is one of the foundations), how few Christians really consider themselves dead to the law. The law is no problem to me. I am dead. The law cannot make me righteous. I am a dead man. We are dead to the law, so we do not look at the law for righteousness.

We are alive to God. We are under grace. Romans 6:14 says, *“For sin shall have no dominion over you because you are not under the law.”* It is amazing, but most people think that if they give up the law, they will end up in sin. The Bible says that you have to give up the law to get *out* of sin. You cannot be under law and grace at the same time. The law is **your** ability. Grace is **God’s** ability. The law works by you putting forth your best effort. Grace works because you believe that Jesus is in you, that you are a new creation, and that you are righteous. If you believe you are righteous, you will live righteous. The way this reads in the Greek is, *“No particular sin of any kind shall exercise lordship over you.”*

The only reason a Christian sins is because he wants to. That is why the Bible tells us to confess our sin. The word “confess” means “to say the same thing.” You have not confessed your sin as long as you have an excuse or someone else to blame. There is one way to know which sins you are going to be vulnerable to. It is simple — The ones you like! I have never once had a temptation to hit my hand with a hammer. You are only tempted to do things that you like, and you are only going to do them because you enjoy the pleasure you get from them. Getting out of sin is not going to happen because I try to obey some rule. A rule is not going to keep me from doing something I enjoy.

We share the most unique method for getting people out of sin. It is the only thing that works. Once a person realizes that sin is the source of pain in their life, they will get out of it. That is all it takes. Sin is not a list of the things you do that makes God unable to love you. Sin is a list of things that you do that brings pain into your life. We gravitate toward what we believe will bring us pleasure. We avoid that which we believe will bring us pain. It is no wonder the whole world is running away from God. Look at the message that the churches preach. They proclaim God as the source of pain. I have never seen one person walk with God when fear was their motive. Any person who makes a commitment to God out of fear and does not eventually adjust that commitment, will never last. In 25 years I have never seen one person with the testimony, “I got saved because I was afraid of going to hell.” make it. That can be a starting place, but as you get to know God, love is going to become the compelling force in your life.

Our death to the law and sin is only a part of what happens at baptism. Jesus

died on the cross and was buried, but the Spirit of God raised him up. That same Spirit works in us. Ephesians 2 says that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Spirit that caused Him to conquer all principality, power and every demon, is the very same Spirit that works in us, the Spirit of resurrection. Jesus not only died, but He was raised from the dead. Colossians 2:12 says that we are *buried with Him in baptism, but we are raised up with Him through faith in the power of God that raised Him from the dead*. If we believe that Jesus died, then we believe that we died with Him, therefore, we are dead to sin. If we believe that God raised Him from the dead, then we believe that we were raised from the dead and are alive to God. Even though baptism is a ceremony, it is a ceremony that puts you in a position to work faith about specific events. I do not encourage people to get re-baptized, but I have re-baptized people because when they were baptized it did not mean anything to them. The main thing is that you operate faith whether you get re-baptized or sit back and say that this is what happened when I was baptized.

Baptism is something I do because I believe I am dead. I am burying this old man. Just like Jesus came out of the grave, I am believing that I am, by that same Spirit that raised Jesus, being raised up in newness of life. I have seen get victory at water baptism that they never could get before. For the first time in their life, they exercised faith in the fact that they were dead to sin and alive to righteousness, alive to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!”* That is powerful! Not many Christians really believe that the old is gone and the new has come. After a person receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, he is baptized in water. You were baptized in the body of Christ the day you believed. You are getting baptized with water to exercise faith about your personal death, burial, and resurrection. We are to believe, to consider (to reckon), that our old life (old nature) died with Christ on the cross. By trusting the power of God, we are to believe that we are raised up as a new person with a new nature, just as Christ was raised up. Jesus had to get a new nature. The Bible says that He was raised up in righteousness. He died in sin and God raised Him up righteous. He became our sin. He is our example and we are to look at Him and say, “He died of sin; I died of sin. He was raised up in righteousness; I am raised up in righteousness —

His righteousness.”

Based on this belief, the new believer is to bury the old man. In water baptism we demonstrate our faith in the fact that we are dead. We also demonstrate our faith in the fact that we are now raised from the dead in Him. For many, this is a place for grace. Empowerment to live a new life becomes reality. It is here that we experience the reality of death, burial, and resurrection.

Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord? Have you been baptized since you believed? If not, are you ready for water baptism?

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised that He would not leave us as orphans. He said He would send another Comforter. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit. A good name for the Holy Spirit is Comforter. He **is not** a tormenter. He **is** a comforter. When you are tormented over sin, that is not God. It is your conscience. God is there offering you comfort. You will have comfort when you walk with Him. Torment comes when we determine to stay in our sin. The torment is the guilt of a defiled conscience.

In John 14:16, 26, Jesus says, *“And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter . . .”* The word “another” means “another of the same kind.” In other words, another Comforter, just like Me. Jesus is saying, “He will do the same thing that I do.” *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

The Spirit of God is with us to teach us, comfort us, lead us, show us Jesus, give personal empowerment, and empowerment for ministry. All of which is a work of grace. The Holy Spirit is our lifeline to God. Apart from the Holy Spirit, the Bible is only a book of rules. Apart from the Holy Spirit, this is just more information.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, *“You shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you . . .”* This word “power” comes from the word “dunamis.” The word dynamite comes from this word. Dynamite, however, blows up once and is gone. The root word for “dunamis” is dynamo. A dynamo has the ability to give off a charge equal to itself without losing any of its inherent power. That is the way Jesus is in us. His power flows through us, yet He states that He abides the same.

This scripture, talks about the Holy Spirit coming **upon** you. The Holy Spirit comes **in** you at salvation. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not when the Spirit comes inside of you. It is when the Spirit comes upon you. Our problem is that we get the Spirit in us to empower us to live the Christian life, but we do not allow the Holy Spirit upon us or flow outside of us, to empower us to touch the world.

Salvation (baptism in the body of Christ, being born again) empowers us personally to live the Christian life, but the Holy Spirit upon us empowers us to touch the world. When you were baptized in water, you were not trying to get the water inside of you. You were trying to get covered over with the water. Jesus said He would baptize us in the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the person doing the baptizing, not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who baptized us into the body of Christ. At water baptism, the preacher baptizes the believer into the elements of the water. But here, Jesus becomes the person baptizing. He baptizes the believer into the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be **with** you and the Holy Spirit would be **in** you. He came in you when you were born again, but a promise is another story. The Holy Spirit comes in you at salvation. It is then that you are born again.

In John 3:5 Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, no man can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and spirit.”* You have to be born of the Spirit in order to be born again, that is the Spirit coming in you. Titus 3:5 says, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”* In Acts 1:8, Jesus was not talking about the Holy Spirit coming in us at salvation. He was talking about us receiving power when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

None of the disciples were born again while following Jesus. You have to believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead to be born again. The Holy Spirit had not yet been freely given. Jesus had not yet been raised from the dead. They were His disciples and the Holy Spirit could actually come **upon** them for ministry. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon people and that is how they worked miracles. Powerful things happen in the lives of believers when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. The Holy Spirit came *in* the disciples when they believed that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

The book of Luke describes this event. Luke 24:45 says, *“Then He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.”* I believe this is talking about when they were born again, which was after Jesus was raised from the dead. It tells us in the book of John that He breathed on them. John 20:21-22, after He was raised from the dead Jesus said, *“Peace be unto you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* And with that he breathed on them and said, *“Receive ye the Holy Spirit.”* I believe this is when they were born again. But after He opened their understanding, it says He then told them to tarry (to wait) for the promise. The promise was that they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit. They would be endued with power for ministry. They received the Holy Spirit in them, but they had not yet been empowered by the Holy Spirit to minister to others.

Acts 2:17 says, *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.”* On the day of Pentecost, Peter was preaching and they were saying, *“What has happened here?”* [By the way, they were not in the Upper Room. I know this preaches nicely, to say so. You could not get all of the disciples and their families into the Upper Room, let alone the thousands of people that saw and heard them. The Upper Room was not very big. They stayed in the Upper Room, but

they went out in the temple to pray. They were daily going to the temple and praying, and they were waiting for the promise.] You have heard it said that they waited for 50 days. Actually, they only tarried seven days. We know this because Jesus was crucified on the day of the Passover. From Passover to Pentecost was 50 days. Jesus was in the grave three days and three nights. The Bible says that He showed Himself alive to them at 40 days. That is a total of 43 days. He ascended 43 days after His crucifixion. It was seven days to Pentecost. It may have taken them a few days to get to the temple because they met Him in Galilee. They may not have tarried seven days, but the **most** they could have possibly tarried was seven days from the time of His ascension to the day of Pentecost. They did not tarry for 50 days or 50 years, and we do not have to tarry at all. They were tarrying because the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out. He has now, and we do not have to wait. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit and they all started speaking in tongues.

In Acts 2:39 Peter was explaining what had happened. He said, *“For the promise is unto you.”* If he would have stopped right there we would have said the baptism in the Holy Spirit is only for those people who lived then. However, He went on to say, *“and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

From these scriptures about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the promise was given to ALL BELIEVERS!! If you are from a denominational background and think we are going to make you speak in tongues, you are mistaken. We do not make anyone do anything. Tongues are already in you. When the Holy Spirit came in you, He brought it all in you; all of the “gifts of the Holy Spirit.” These are all abilities of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2:4 it tells what happened when the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit. It says, *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.”* They all spoke with other tongues. The Holy Spirit did not speak. They spoke. The Holy Spirit never makes you do anything. The Holy Spirit leads and compels you, but you are the one who does it. The Bible does not call the Holy Spirit the doer of the Word. He is the helper. He said, *“I will send one alongside to help.”* The Holy Spirit does not **do** anything for you. He **helps** or empowers you as you do things.

The word “tongues” simply means a language. The Bible says there are tongues of men and tongues of angels. A tongue is really a language that is intelligible to somebody, just not to the one who is speaking.

While I was worshiping God one night during a service, one of our missionaries to Mexico suddenly began to cry. I did not have a clue as to what was going on. When he finally got himself composed, he came up to me and said that he wanted to share. He was from Puerto Rico. He said, “While you were praying, you began to pray in Spanish and you began to pray specific things.” I did not know what I was saying. Another tongue is another language. It is foreign to me, but intelligible to someone. I have had that happen to me more than once.

A friend of mine was once in Jerusalem. He went to the Wailing Wall and began to pray. All of these Jews began to get mad and leave. The tour guide asked him why he insulted all of these people. He did not know what he was referring to. The tour guide told him that he was praying in the Hebrew language and glorified Jesus as the Messiah. That is why the Jews became angry and left.

Tongues is a language that is intelligible to someone, somewhere. However, it is not intelligible to you. In Acts 10:46, when the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit it says, “*They heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*” Acts 19:6, “*When Paul placed his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*” In all of the instances of believers receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they all spoke in tongues.

From reading the following scriptures, we see there are three main reasons for us to speak in tongues. There may be other reasons, but these are the three main reasons. The first reason is for personal edification, I Corinthians 14:4. When I first started studied this, I thought it was self-centered, to edify yourself. There are many times, however, that I need edification or encouragement that no one else can give me.

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit just a couple of weeks after I was saved. I really did not know what it was. I just prayed all night and before the night was over I began to speak in tongues, not realizing what it was. The first church I attended was a Baptist church. They believed that speaking in tongues was of the devil. I did not realize that what I was doing was speaking in tongues. I thought, “If I ever hear any of those ‘tongue-talkers,’ I will just cast the devil out of them.” I wondered what it

sounded like. I did not know they were talking about was what I was already doing.

When I finally figured out that I was speaking in tongues, I started to waver. I had heard all of these bad things about it, but I also knew that it was in the Bible. I decided to put this to the test. I made a commitment to myself that when I prayed in tongues, I would not stop until I felt edified. That was a challenge, but I put it to the test. Back in those early days, because of my wavering and unbelief, I would pray in tongues for hours before I felt this edification and strength come into me. Now, I can worship God in other tongues for a matter of minutes and strength and edification come very quickly.

Not everyone will know how to encourage you. My tape set, "Keeping Yourself Encouraged" will answer a lot of questions about tongues. It deals with how to use these gifts, or graces, of God to keep yourself built up. Many people look at those who are in ministry and ask how they keep themselves encouraged. There are specific ways this happens. A prayer life that includes praying in tongues is an essential part.

The second reason for speaking in tongues is for glorifying God. In I Corinthians 14:2 and Acts 2:11, when it talks about praying in tongues, it says that they were glorifying God. It is a means of worshiping and glorifying God that goes beyond our personal understanding. Some people struggle with intimacy. Often, we cannot express intimate feelings. Brenda and I have a wonderful marriage. We are very passionate and extremely intimate, however, I sometimes find myself wanting to express an intimacy and really do not know how to do it. I feel awkward and wonder how I can say it without sounding stupid. This can happen in our relationship with God. When we pray in tongues, only our hearts are involved, not our understanding. The Holy Spirit gives us words of intimacy, praise, worship and adoration. We would otherwise be unable to express these things. We would be limited to our present abilities of expressing intimacy .

Romans 8:26-27 teaches that when we pray in other tongues we pray the perfect will of God. We have all been in situations when we did not know exactly how to pray. This is where praying in tongues comes into play.

You might be thinking, "Why do I need to pray about things anyway?" God gave authority of planet Earth to man. God never arbitrarily does anything in planet Earth. In the book of Genesis, when He created Adam, He said, "*Let us make man in our own*

likeness, our own image, and let them have dominion." (Genesis 1:26) From that day until now, the only extent that the will of God is done in Earth is when man exercises his will for it to be done. When praying, I have to exercise my authority as a human being who has dominion over planet Earth. God is able to move in the situation because I express my will. Neither God nor the devil can do anything they want to do in planet Earth. God and the devil can only do in planet Earth what man will have done. Authority is exercised by words. When I pray in other tongues, because I am yielding to the Holy Spirit, He will lead me in this language to say, "This is the will of God for these things."

While praying and worshipping God in other tongues, He often gives me the interpretation. I get the wisdom about how to approach something through praying in tongues and getting the interpretation. The Bible says when you pray in tongues you should pray for the interpretation.

Personal edification, praising and glorifying God, praying the perfect will of God, and getting the wisdom of God are the main reasons for praying in tongues. People mistakenly think the Holy Spirit will make them speak in tongues, or He will speak for you. The Bible clearly points out that the believers spoke in tongues, not the Holy Spirit. The Spirit never forces you to do anything, but when the believer decides to act on the promises of God, the Holy Spirit will certainly do His part. We speak and the Spirit's part is to give us the words or the utterance.

In the book of Acts there is an account of people being born again. Phillip, the very first deacon, preaches to the Samaritans. When he preaches, they all receive the Word of God. Acts 8:14 says, "*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.*" The word for "receive" is not a passive word. It does not mean that nothing happened. This is the Greek word "para lambano." This is an aggressive word that means to "take hold of or to put into operation." There is a word "dekomai" which means to receive passively. They did not take hold of and operate in the Holy Spirit.

It was so foreign to the New Testament church for someone to be saved and not speak in tongues. I am not saying you are not saved if you do not speak in tongues, but it was foreign for believers not to speak in tongues. It was so foreign that when

they heard that they had received the Word of God (“dekomai,” passively received it), but they had not “lambano,” (taken hold of the baptism of the Holy Spirit) they knew something had to be done. They sent the apostles down to find out why these believers were not getting baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15 -17 says, *“When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive (lambano) the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit had not yet come **upon** them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”*

The reason they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit is because they had not been taught. It says they were only baptized in the name of Jesus. They did not know the Holy Spirit was available to them. When they found that He was, they were not re-baptized in water, but the apostles laid hands on them and they prayed for them that they might take hold of and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, *“I will baptize you in the Holy Ghost.”* Jesus is the one doing the baptizing. A believer wants to get baptized, placed into, covered over, immersed with the Holy Spirit so that what is inside gets to the outside. First, receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Then, receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Although I had already received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and was speaking in tongues, I was struggling with it because I was in a church that condemned it. I had heard horror stories about it. I had heard that a missionary came from Africa who heard someone speak in tongues and was actually cursing Jesus! I did not want to curse Jesus. I began trying to find someone who was there and could confirm this. I could not find anyone . . . because it never happened. The Bible says that no man speaking by the Spirit says ‘Jesus be cursed.’ But because I was hearing this fear and unbelief, I was wavering in my confidence. When I read the Bible for myself, apart from the influence of people, and I saw that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was part of what Jesus died to give me, I said, “Who am I, regardless of how comfortable or uncomfortable I am with this, to reject it?” I decided that whether or not I am comfortable with it is not the issue. The issue is whether or not Jesus died to give it to me. This was important enough that it was included in my salvation package. If it was important to God, it needs to be important to me. I may not understand, but I will come to understand. I made a decision that if Jesus is Lord, I will not refuse anything that He

offers me. If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then you are a candidate for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Second, you must believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for you. Think this over. You do not have to be in church to get baptized in the Holy Spirit. There were several different ways that people got baptized in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. Sometimes people laid hands on them, and sometimes while people were preaching to them. You can get baptized in the Holy Spirit right now. Nobody has to be with you. It is a simple thing. You simply ask Jesus and accept that the reality of it does not have anything to do with feelings. Then act on your faith. Speak in other tongues, trusting the Holy Spirit to give you the words.

While preaching at an Assembly of God church in Mexico. The Lord impressed me to preach on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The place was packed. I thought, "Well, this is a Pentecostal Church. Everybody here probably has the baptism of the Holy Spirit." I found that, around the world, most Pentecostals do not have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So I preached on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the line was so long it took us hours to pray for the people. Since then I pray for people in groups. I have seen up to 5,000 people get baptized in the Holy Spirit, start speaking in tongues and worshipping God at the same time. But, in this church, we asked all of the people the same questions. "Do you believe this is in the Bible? Do you believe this is for you? Do you want it?" Then I asked them a simple question, "If we pray for you, are you going to receive it, and are you going to speak in tongues?" Every single person that said "yes" to all of those questions prayed in tongues that night.

There are people who pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and do not speak in tongues. It is not because they did not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but because they are not confident at the time. Tongues are already in you. You must release them. The question is, however, "When are you going to be comfortable enough to step out and allow what is in you flow out of you?" The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for every person. You have to decide if this is something you want for yourself.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
Class #4
DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

Psalm 11:3 *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

Baptism into the Body of Christ

The Bible teaches about _____ different baptisms:

Baptism _____

Baptism _____

Baptism _____

The word "baptize" means to place something into something else. In ancient Greek writings the word "baptize" is used to describe a _____.

1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one _____ are we all _____ into one body..."

The first baptism is something that occurs when we _____.

The _____ baptized or placed us _____ the body of Christ. Because we are placed (baptized) into Jesus' body, we no longer relate to God on our own merit. We are now _____. We relate to God on the merit (righteousness) of Jesus.

Because the Spirit _____ me into Jesus, when God looks at me He sees me _____.

As you read the New Testament notice how many times it refers to us as in Christ, through Christ, by Him etc... God only sees us through the righteousness of Jesus.

Baptism in Water

The next baptism is the baptism in water. Jesus commanded His followers to be baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. In the great commission, He told His followers to go to all the world and preach the Gospel and to baptize all that believed.

Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and _____ of all nations,

_____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Throughout the book of Acts we see the early church obeying this commandment. All of the early Christians were baptized by immersion in water. Throughout the years, baptism has become a ceremony or ritual that has very little meaning for the new believer. This is not the plan of God.

Everything we receive from God is a work of _____ through _____.

_____ has no value apart from faith and grace.

When a believer is baptized into water he should _____ (faith) God for some specific things and he should be _____ (grace) in an area of his life.

Ceremonies are designed to give us a specific way to _____ God’s realities. Let’s read the following scriptures and determine what reality we should experience in water baptism.

Mark 16:16, “He that _____ and is _____ shall be saved...”

The _____ for baptism is to be a believer. Baptism is not for children or for the unconverted.

Romans 6:4, “Therefore, we are buried with Him by _____ into _____.”

Baptism is where we identify with the _____.

Romans 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man _____ with Him.”

Jesus became our _____ while on that cross. Therefore, our _____ died with Him. If our sinful man died with Him then we are dead to sin.

Romans 6:11, “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Reckon means to _____.
If you believe you _____ with Christ you can _____
yourself dead to sin, grace will give you the _____ to live free from sin.

Romans 7:1, "Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?" (NIV)

Romans 7:4, "So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God." (NIV)

We are dead to the _____, so we do not look to the law for _____.
_____ We are alive to God, therefore, we are under _____ / _____ not _____ / our _____.

Romans 6:15, "For _____ SHALL NOT have _____ over you."

Our death to the law and sin is only part of what happens in baptism. Jesus _____ on the cross and was buried. But He was _____ up by the _____ of God, the same _____ that works in us.

Colossians 2:12, Buried with Him in _____ raised with Him through your _____ in the _____ of God who raised Him from the dead.

If we believe that Jesus died, then we believe that we died with Him. Therefore, we are _____. If we believe that God raised Him from the dead, then we believe that we were raised with Him and we are _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation; the _____, the new has come!" (NIV)

After a person has received Jesus as Lord and Savior he is to be baptized in water. He is to believe (consider/reckon) that his old life and his old nature died with Christ on the cross. By trusting in the power of God he is to believe that he is raised up as a new person, with a new nature, just as Christ was raised from the dead.

Based on this belief, the new believer is to bury the old man. In water baptism we demonstrate our faith in the fact that we are dead. We also demonstrate our faith in the fact that we are now raised from the dead in Him. For many this is the place where grace/empowerment to live the new life becomes a reality. It is here that we experience the reality of death burial and resurrection.

YOUR RESPONSE

1. Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? _____
2. Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord? _____
3. Have you been baptized since you believed? _____
4. If not, are you ready to be baptized in water? _____

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised that He would not leave us as _____. He said He would send us another _____. This Comforter is the _____.

John 14:16,26.

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

The Spirit of God is with us to:

_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____.

The Holy Spirit is our _____ to God.

In Acts 1:4 Jesus told the disciples to wait until they were endued with power from the Father. Jesus promised that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive _____ after that the _____ is come _____ you."

Is this scripture talking about the Holy Spirit coming upon you or in you?

_____.

When does the Holy Spirit come in you? _____.

The Holy Spirit comes in us at salvation. It is then that we are born of the Spirit,

John 3:5, *“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.’” (NIV)*

Titus 3:5, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”*

In Acts 1:8, Jesus was not talking about the Spirit coming in us at salvation, He was talking about us receiving power when we were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:17, *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon _____.”*

Acts 2:39, For the promise is unto _____, and to your _____, and to all that are _____, even _____ as the Lord our God shall call.

From these scriptures about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, to whom is this promise given? _____.

According to Acts 2:4, what happened when the believers were filled with the Spirit?
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

They _____ with other _____.

Tongues is another word for _____.

In Acts 10:46 when the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, what happened?

For they heard them speaking in _____ and _____ God. NIV

In Acts 19:6, what happened when the believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit _____ them, and they _____ and prophesied.” (NIV)

In all of the instances of believers receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, they all spoke with tongues. By reading the following scriptures we see that there are three reasons for us to speak in tongues:

_____, 1 Corinthians 14:4
_____, 1 Corinthians 14:2, Acts 2:11
_____, Romans 8:26-27

People mistakenly think that the Holy Spirit will make them speak in tongues or that He will speak for you. The Bible clearly points out that it was the believers who spoke in tongues, not the Holy Spirit. The Spirit never forces anyone to do anything. But, when a believer decides to act on the promises of God, the Holy Spirit will certainly do His part. We speak; the Spirit gives the words.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.
2. Believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for you.
3. Ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.
4. Receive by faith. This has nothing to do with your feelings.
5. Act on your faith.
 - a. Thank the Lord for baptizing you in the Holy Spirit. Worship Him for answering your prayers.
 - b. Begin to speak in tongues. You might ask, "But, how will I know it's not me speaking in tongues?" It will be you. You do the speaking, the Holy Spirit supplies the words.

YOUR RESPONSE

1. Have you received Jesus as Lord? _____
2. Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? _____

The tape series "Keeping Yourself Encouraged" Will provide thorough teaching about the importance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Speaking in other tongues.

