

Daily Bread

12/04/2021

WATER BAPTISM (PART 1)

The word baptism is from a Greek word baptizo which means to dip or to immerse. To baptize something means to dip something completely in water or in any liquid. In biblical sense and in our case as Christians, to baptize is to dip someone, or submerge someone completely under water and then immediately raise the person up again. This is how our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized (**Matthew 3:16**).

TODAY, before I get into much details on water baptism, let me make this point very clear to the saints. We do not get born again by being baptized in water, rather we get baptized because we are already born again. We are saved by putting our faith in Jesus Christ or by believing his Gospel (**Acts 16:31**). For our salvation, we do not need to do anything apart from believing the Gospel of Christ. There must be no works at all otherwise it would not be by grace (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

When the Bible speaks of being baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:7**), this should not be confused with water baptism. Being baptized into Christ means being born again. Read also **Acts 19:5**, the baptism referred here is not water baptism, it is receiving Jesus Christ for salvation.

Water baptism therefore has nothing to do with the salvation of a believer but it's for identity. Firstly, you need to get saved (born again) and then you get baptized in water. We do not baptize a person who is not born again because it will be meaningless. It is only those who believe who should be baptized. Water baptism cannot bring salvation to anyone and this should be clear. After one has put his/her faith in Jesus Christ, then he/she is baptized for the reasons that will be explained below.

Some believers also think that water baptism is a spiritual cleansing. That is heresy, that should never be followed. You do not get cleansed by baptism in water. You are cleansed by the blood of Jesus. That is the real, powerful detergent to clean sin from man (**Revelations 1:5**). He washed us with his own blood at salvation. Water baptism is not for washing or cleansing you.

Water baptism is not a ritual. You do not leave bad luck or bad spirits into the water NO! That is perversion of the scriptures...Your bad luck, your challenges, are not going to be taken away by the water and remain in the pool, those were dealt with long back by the blood of Jesus. They were crucified on the cross with Jesus.

So why should I be baptized?

1. Your water baptism is your public confession of your love, belief and commitment to Jesus Christ.

It is a statement of faith that says; indeed, I have believed the Gospel and am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (**Romans 6:11**).

2. It is your readiness to identify with his

Death, burial and resurrection. By standing in water, you symbolize Jesus dying on the cross, by being immersed in water, you symbolize his burial and by being taken out of water you symbolize his resurrection. (**Romans 6:4**).

3. It is a symbol of your new life in Christ, by burying the "old life" and being raised to walk in the "new life".

4. Just like Holy Communion, water baptism is an instruction from our Lord Jesus Christ. He instructed all those who would believe to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (**Mathew 28:19**).

Please note baptism should be done immediately after one has believed in Jesus Christ, however due to technical and logistical reasons we may delay baptism. The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized the same day he met Philip, when he saw the water, he asked to be baptized immediately (**Acts 8:35-39**). If one gets born again and has a pool at his house or has access to one, he should then be baptized immediately. Water baptism should not be delayed.

In the book of Acts, people were baptized as soon as they believed (**Acts 2:41, Acts 8:35-39, Acts 8:12**).

In tomorrow's episode, we seek to answer the following questions:

What is the correct way of being baptized?

How many times should I be dipped in water?

I was not dipped in water, should I be counted as baptized?

Do we baptize children?

Do not miss tomorrow's episode

Pastor C & S

Daily Bread

13/04/2021

WATER BAPTISM (PART 2)

Mark 1:9 (KJV) And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

Jesus was also baptized in water but his baptism had nothing to do with sin because Jesus was sinless. Even now, it should be known that water baptism has nothing to do with the removal of sin (see previous episode). You do not become a new creation by coming out of water, you became a new creation by being IN Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Someone asked yesterday if one can go to heaven without water baptism. Yes, he/she can. Remember the thief that was crucified with Jesus on the cross, who repented and Jesus said to him "Today, I will be with you in Paradise." (Luke 23:43). This thief had no time for water baptism but his salvation was confirmed right there at the point of his death. I am not down playing the importance of water baptism but I am trying to make sure that we do it for the right reasons and also to make it clear that our faith in Jesus is the only way of salvation.

Why was Jesus baptized?

1. To fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15)

When John saw Jesus coming, he felt inferior to baptize him but Jesus said to him let it be done in order to fulfill all righteousness. (**Mathew 3:14-15**) Jesus wanted to be exactly like us, he wanted to identify with those who would follow him. He was setting an example.

2. To be identified.

Remember no one knew who Jesus was before his baptism. He was just like an ordinary boy growing up, even with John the Baptist, they were cousins but John did not know that Jesus was the Christ. One day as John was baptizing people, he saw Jesus coming towards him to be baptized and he said "Behold the lamb of God that takes the sins of the world" (**John 1:29-34**).

John the Baptist knew that upon whom the Spirit shall descend like a dove, the same will be the Christ. So, Jesus was to be identified by baptism.

3. To be announced.

After his baptism, and lo a voice from heaven was heard, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (**Mathew 3:17**).

Procedure for baptism

1. Before anyone is baptized in water, he/she must be born again first. We do not baptise people who are not born again, it will not help them. The procedure is, if a person believes, then he/she should be baptized.

2. We do not baptise children. Little children are given (dedicated) to God, they cannot be baptized because baptism is a choice. From the age of 12 years, the child can be baptized but before he/she is dipped in water, leaders must make sure that the child is taught the Gospel to believe in Jesus Christ first for his/her salvation.

Most people make a mistake of thinking that if a child is born in church by believing parents, then he/she will not need to be saved on his/her own. At the right age, children should be taught the Word of God and be given an opportunity to receive Jesus and then baptized. We do not just frog jump children, we teach them first.

3. The correct way of baptism is to be dipped once in water. Some people are dipped three times and some even seven, those who do such cannot say it is from the scripture. The scripture says, baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19**). This does not mean that you have to go into water three times for each part of the Godhead, NO! The three (Father, Son and the Holy Spirit) are one. Also remember, when we get baptized, we profess the death, burial and the resurrection of Jesus, and that Jesus died once and rose once, why then would one be dipped three times?

Some people sprinkle water or smear water on people as a way of baptism, that is not at all scriptural, because to baptize is to dip/submerge someone completely in water, symbolizing that

Jesus was buried completely in the earth. Smearing or sprinkling water as a way of baptism is therefore erroneous.

Who should baptize you?

Any leader, appointed or ordained can baptize. It can be cell leader, a lay leader, a departmental leader, a deacon, an elder, a pastor, apostle, bishop etc. As long as he/she is a recognized leader in the local church, they have the mandate to baptize.

Who baptizes you does not matter, you are not better because you were baptized by the apostle and not by the cell leader, that is not important at all. Baptism is the same. Let not your heart be troubled thinking that you need a big apostle to baptize you.

Ok let us continue tomorrow. Send your questions to Patricia if you have any.

Pastor C & S

Daily Bread

15/04/2021

WATER BAPTISM (PART 3)

TYPES OF BAPTISMS

For avoidance of confusion, let me discuss with you here types of baptisms that are in the scriptures...

Before the death of Jesus, water baptism was the only way of showing your repentance because there was not anything like being born again because Jesus had not yet died. So, water baptism or the baptism of John was called the baptism of repentance (**Acts 1:5**). It cannot be called the baptism of repentance now because you do not need water baptism to repent you need to be born again but you need water baptism as a public confirmation of your belief...

1. The baptism of John (water baptism)

Jesus said to his disciples indeed John baptized you with water for repentance. (**Acts 1:5**). This baptism, then was a sign that one has repented, now it cannot represent that anymore. You need the other baptisms to complement it. I hope you have understood that this was done before the death and resurrection of Jesus but after his resurrection, the baptism of John cannot now be called the baptism of repentance because you do not get born again by being dipped in water but by believing in Jesus Christ. However, it is still important to be baptized in water for reasons spelt out in the previous episodes.

2. Baptized in Christ/in the name of the Lord (Acts 19:5).

What is this baptism? what does it mean to be baptized in the name of the Lord?

Many people erroneously think that these people in **Acts 19** were baptized in water again but in the name of the Lord Jesus but that is not true. If you read the scripture from **Acts 19:1-4**, you will discover that these believers were baptized only with the baptism of John, which means they were baptized in water but Paul introduced them to baptism in the name of the Lord. This obviously does not mean they were dipped again in water.

What it therefore means is when one is being baptized in the name of the Lord, the person is now being born again, the person is now receiving Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior. These believers had only been baptized in water but not being born again. Paul brought them to salvation by baptizing them in the name of the Lord (receiving Jesus).

Romans 6:4 clearly state that we are baptized into his death, being baptised into his death and being raised up to walk in the newness of life. This verse, though demonstrated and explained by water baptism does not mean to be baptized in water. No! It means to be born again. When you get born again you are baptized in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This will happen automatically in your spirit. This is the same baptism that Paul performed in **Acts 19:5**, he got them born again.

If you are a student of the bible, you would be interested in knowing that the church at Ephesus in **Acts 19** was Apollos's church. The reason why they were only baptized in the baptism of John is because their leader only knew about that only, read **Acts 18:24-28**. Apollos only knew the baptism of John (**Acts 18:24**), that is why this church was only exposed to this one baptism. This Apollos, even though he was eloquent, he lacked knowledge and revelation of the other baptisms until he was taken by Priscilla and Aquilla who were Paul's companions who took him to expound (explain) to him about the salvation.

3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

This is very important. Jesus does not baptize people with water; Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit (**Mathew 3:11**). John baptized you with water but Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:5**) and fire. John confessed it and said the one who is coming after me is greater than me (meaning Jesus) and he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. So, it means if you are baptized with water and not baptized with the Holy Spirit you only have the baptism of John and not of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is the Holy Spirit and of fire. You should receive the baptism of Jesus. The baptism of John is flesh baptism but the baptism of Jesus is spirit baptism.

Christian life cannot be lived with self-effort. It needs power from somewhere hence we need the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Christian life. The reason why Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (**Acts 1:8**) means that you will be empowered

to live a Christian life. No one can live a Christian life without the Holy Spirit, all you can be at best is to be a religious person. So, one must aspire to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Let us go back again to **Acts 19** to see the sequence of these baptisms In **Acts 19 from verses 1-8**

Acts 19:1. Paul found brethren (he found a group of worshippers in Ephesus)

Vs 2. He asked whether they had the Holy Spirit since they have believed. They said they have never had of anything called the Holy Spirit.

Vs 3. Paul asked them whose baptism do they have, the church said they only knew the baptism of John.

Vs 4. Paul then took them through a teaching of telling them that it was not enough to be only baptized in water, they needed two more baptisms, they agreed.

Vs 5. They were baptized in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Notice, this was now the second baptism for them. They had the baptism of water now they were baptized in the name of the Lord (born again).

Vs 6. This one is interesting, after having received the baptism of in the name of the Lord, then Paul placed his hands upon them and they received the Holy Spirit and they spoke in new tongues and prophesied...that is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You cannot be baptized with the Holy Spirit and not speak in tongues, never! Everyone must speak in tongues.

Did you see the three-baptism mentioned in one scenario in **Acts 19:1-8**? Study it.

4. Baptism of Suffering.

Will continue from here. Read tomorrow's episode.

Pastor C & S