

LESSON 5: BAPTISM AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

DAY 29

1. Read Mark 1:1-11 to answer the following questions.

a. What is baptism?

{baptize}

THE WORD BAPTIZE IS TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK WORD BAPTISO, WHICH MEANS TO IMMERSE OR SUBMERGE.

b. What was the purpose for which John came baptizing?

c. What did people do when they came to be baptized?

d. In these verses, what are the two things into which John said you could be baptized?

e. Who did John say would do the baptizing in the Holy Spirit?

2. Read Luke 3:3-17 to answer the following questions.

a. With what spirit and heart should a person come to be baptized?

- b. How does a person bear fruits worthy of repentance?
 - c. In what ways might we think that we are *Abraham's children*, that is, we are good enough on our own, and don't need to be baptized?
3. What will a person be immersed into if he or she does not bear fruit? (Luke 3:9, 17)
4. Read Acts 2:29-41 to answer the following questions.
- a. What were those who were cut to the heart by the gospel told to do?
 - b. What gifts were promised to those who repent and are baptized?
 - c. To whom is this promise made?

PRAY

Thank God for offering His plan of salvation to you and to all mankind. Ask God for a humble heart as you think about repentance and baptism. Praise Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables you to walk in the Spirit and bear fruit by the Holy Spirit.

DAY 30

5. Read Mark 16:15-16 and Matthew 28:18-20 to answer the following questions.
 - a. How important is it to be baptized?
 - b. By whose authority are we commanded to be baptized and to baptize?
 - c. When we are baptized in water, into whose name are we being baptized?
 - d. What do these verses say we need to do to be saved?

P2P: In the verses we have read thus far, we have come to understand that there are three kinds of baptisms, water, Holy Spirit and fire. The first two baptisms are the ones we are instructed to receive *so that we do not need to receive* the baptism of fire. We come to be baptized with a heart of belief in God and in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We come with a heart of repentance, being willing to confess our own sins. This is in contrast to those with a heart of pride, who embrace their sins and fail to recognize the need for repentance and God's forgiveness.

We are baptized, or immersed, into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. By being baptized in faith, we have assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are saved from the death we deserve because of sin (Romans 6:23). We bear His name and we receive His Spirit.

6. Read Colossians 2:11-14 and Romans 6:1-14 to answer the following questions.
 - a. Into whom and what are we baptized?
 - b. What does it mean to be buried in baptism? What do we die to in baptism? Why do you think God compares our death and new life in baptism with that of Jesus Christ's life and death?
 - c. What do we live to when we are raised up out of the waters of baptism?

PRAY Give God glory for allowing us to participate in the great commission as His fellow workers. Ask Him to prepare people to receive the gospel and to lead you to those with whom you can share it. Ask for Him to create opportunities to talk about Jesus' work with others. Thank Him for saving us and forgiving our sins through baptism. Praise Him for freeing us from the penalty of death. Make a commitment to God to live in newness of life.

DAY 31

7. Read Acts 10:34-48 to answer the following questions.
 - a. Who should be baptized?
 - b. Who are those who are accepted by God? From what nation do they come?

8. Does God respect one person over another based on their nationality or culture?
(1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 17:24-31)

P2P: Reflect on how God takes people from such different cultures and unifies all Christians into one body, by one Spirit.

9. Seeing that God commands all men everywhere to repent, when should we be baptized?
(Acts 22:14-16)

MEDITATE Baptism should happen when you see God and His will, when you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, and are ready to immerse your life into Him, believe in His promises, and repent of your past life apart from Him. There is no reason to wait to receive the washing of your sins once you repent and believe. If you are not yet baptized, what is preventing you from doing so?

PRAY Spend time thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to all who repent, believe and are baptized. Praise Him for creating a oneness in His body of believers. If you have not been baptized, ask God to lead you to a pastor to discuss baptism. Pray for someone you know who needs to come to Jesus. Ask God our Father to help this person see the need for His salvation and Spirit.

DAY 32

10. How and when do the baptisms of water and the Holy Spirit occur? As you read the following passages, take note of the similarities and differences of how and when these two baptisms occur, then answer the related questions.

Matthew 3:1-17

Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4

Acts 8:12-17

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 19:1-7

- a. What role did the laying on of hands play in these passages?

{laying on of hands}

LAYING ON OF HANDS IS THE ACT OF A PERSON WITH GOD'S SPIRIT TOUCHING AND PRAYING FOR ANOTHER PERSON THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE OF THAT SPIRIT AND BLESSING.

- b. Does the baptism of the Holy Spirit happen always before – or always after – water baptism?
- c. Did the baptism of the Holy Spirit always come *immediately* after baptism in water?

- d. How were the disciples baptized with the Holy Spirit?
 - e. Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit?
 - f. Were the disciples still baptized in water even if they were baptized by the Holy Spirit first?
11. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 3:1-7; Acts 5:32)

P2P: Do you believe that you will receive the promised Holy Spirit, that you can depend and rely upon God to fill you daily? See also Luke 11:13.

P2P: Have you repented of your sins and are you now walking in faith and obedience to God?

12. Who do we become by being baptized into Jesus Christ? (Romans 8:9-17)

P2P: Have you been baptized in water and have you received the Holy Spirit? Without the Spirit of God, you are not His, but if you are immersed in the Spirit, and are led by the Spirit, you are the child of God. The Holy Spirit within you is the guarantee of your eternal inheritance.

13. What does the Spirit of the Lord produce? (2 Corinthians 3:17-18) Do you see the work of God's Spirit in your life, transforming you?

PRAY

Praise God for the blessing of the laying on of hands, through which God gives His Spirit and blessing. Thank Him for the freedom that the Spirit of the Lord brings to the life of a Christian. Beseech Him to strengthen your walk in the Spirit and to grant you a heart of obedience to the Spirit.

DAY 33

14. How does being baptized in the Spirit transform your life? (John 16:7-15)

P2P: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins, of righteousness and of judgment. God leads us to know Jesus Christ and to be saved. Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

Do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life, guiding you into all truth? Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to lead you, to reveal to you the will of God in heaven? Is God speaking to you of things to come?

15. What are some other things the Holy Spirit does in the life of a believer? (John 14:26; John 15:26; Luke 12:11-12)

P2P: Do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life in these ways?

Realize that you cannot be one of Christ's without the Holy Spirit. We *need* God to live in us! Seek God daily to continually fill you with the Holy Spirit. He will lead and guide you. He will help you as you look to Him in faith and trust, even with what to speak.

16. What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps, guides and teaches Jesus' disciples?

Acts 1:1-8

Acts 2:1-6

Acts 4:8, 31

Acts 8:29

Acts 10:19-20

Acts 11:16-17

Acts 13:2-4

Acts 16:6-7

Romans 8:26-27

P2P: Do you see the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in your life, leading and guiding you? If so, how? If not, are you relying on and expecting the Holy Spirit to fill this role in your life? We desperately need God to do this work.

Do not settle for going through the motions as a Christian, without becoming a Christian through the infilling of God's Holy Spirit.

17. What fruit is manifested by the Holy Spirit living in you? (Galatians 5:22-23)

PRAY

Give God glory and praise for the work of the Holy Spirit! Specifically thank Him for how the Holy Spirit works in your life. Ask God to bless you with the gifts and fruit of His Spirit so that you can better serve others. Pray for people you know, asking God to bless you with an understanding of how to pray for them. Ask God to empower you by His Spirit to be a blessing to others.

DAY 34

18. What are some of the gifts that come to believers by the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 12:28-31; Romans 12:4-8)

P2P: Do you see any of these gifts evident in your life? By whose will do they come?

Do you desire these gifts? Can you seek them with a hope to receive them?

19. For what purpose should you seek spiritual gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:28-31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12)

20. Besides giving the Holy Spirit, how was the laying on of hands used by Jesus and the church?

a. For healing

Luke 4:40

Acts 28:8

b. For ministry to others

1 Timothy 4:14

2 Timothy 1:6

c. For raising men into positions of authority

Acts 6:6

1 Timothy 5:22

P2P: The gift of the laying on of hands in the church is used to impart the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to others.

The baptisms of water and the Holy Spirit work together to cleanse a person of their sins and to impart the holiness and power of Almighty God. The immersion into water represents the immersion of our whole life, in faith, into Jesus Christ and His death. In so doing, we die to self, that we may be raised in newness of life. We are baptized in His name so we can become the children of God.

The immersion of the Holy Spirit is the way we become the children of God, receiving the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, *Abba, Father*. Having received the Holy Spirit, we now live life in the Spirit, having communion with the Holy Spirit, producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit and exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit in service to others. It is a new life in God when we turn to God and continually seek for God to fill us day by day.

While we may look back on, or yet anticipate, the day of our baptism in water and in the Spirit, being baptized is not just a once-in-a-lifetime, check-off-the-box, been-there-done-that, set of events. Being baptized into Christ is a daily walk as we continually immerse ourselves into the death of our Lord, dying to sin and the ways of the flesh, and living life fully immersed in God. Day by day, we are to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, producing the fruit of God's Spirit and building up others by the gifts of His Spirit.

Have you been baptized in both water and the Holy Spirit? If not, will you do so? We all need to be baptized to receive forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. This is how we are filled with the very Spirit of Almighty God. My prayer for you is that you will be strengthened with might, through His Spirit in the inner man, that you be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-20).

PRAY

Thank God for all the gifts of the Spirit which are given to the Body of Christ. Praise Him for the gifts He has given you. Earnestly desire for God to grant you the spiritual gifts you need to effectively serve others on every occasion. Pray that God would give more gifts to His church so the church can be a more effective witness to this dying world.

DAY 35

MEDITATE & PRAY

Spend time further reflecting upon and praying about the parts of Lesson 5 that really inspired you.