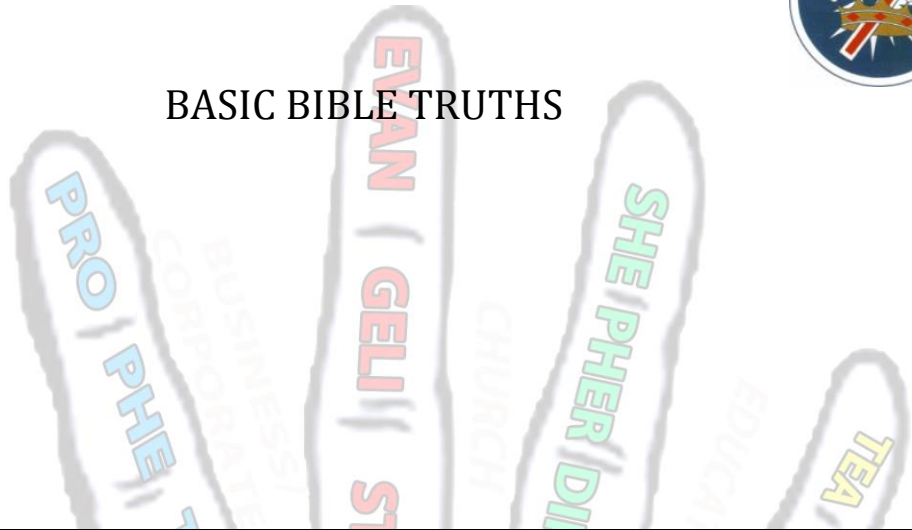




FAITH AND GLORY TABERNACLE



BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS



FOR NEW BELIEVERS

II Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new"



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Introduction

"Behold, I make all things new"!

This promise given by the LORD God describes the new eternal city that will one day be the home for every Christian (Revelation 21:5). What a future awaits those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour! But God not only has abundant life waiting for you in the future, He has abundant life for you to experience now! (John 10:10). The Bible says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). Every believer in Jesus Christ is already a new creation, a new person, with new direction in life, new ambitions, new hope, and a new life!

To become a member of a family, you are either born or adopted into it. The new birth is the way you are both born and adopted into the family of God. It is a spiritual experience that transforms you from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. It is both a spiritual and moral change. Christ lives in you by the Holy Spirit. It is so vital an experience that no one can enter into God's Kingdom without it. John 1:12-13; Gal. 4-5, Eph. 5:30-32

Everything for the believer is new! God has even put within our hearts - "a new song" (Psalm 40:3)! This Bible study is designed to guide new and growing Christians into a greater understanding of their new life in Christ. All you need to begin is a Bible, a pen or pencil, and a quiet place to study. You can do this Bible study by yourself, or better yet with another Christian friend. Before each lesson, pray and ask God to "open your eyes" to the wonderful truths found in His Word (Psalm 119:18). You are now ready to learn about your new life as a believer in Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that as you continue in prayer, and abound in prayer, as we ought, that the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth, which is the Word of God. There is no duty in this world more acceptable to God than fervent prayers and study his Word for a right understanding of his mind and will. On this, everything else depends.

Welcome to the Family of God.

Minister Lemon M Phiri
FGT Visionary Leader

Lesson 1 "A New Family" (A Change by Adoption)

One of the happiest times in life is when a mother gives birth to a healthy baby. There was a specific time and place when you were born. At that time, you were given the last name of your father and your parents may have noticed how much you looked like them. Most people even remember their birthday with a time of celebration each year. Even though the day you were born was an important day, it was not the most important day of your life. The Lord Jesus spoke of a birth more important than even your physical birth. He said that it is not enough for someone to be born once, but they must be born twice.

In this lesson, we will discover what Jesus meant when He said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN AGAIN"?

To be "born again" simply means to be born anew into God's family. It means to become a child of God.



READ John 3:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1. According to Jesus, why is it important to be "born again"? (John 3:3)

2. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the phrase "born again." What type of birth was Nicodemus thinking about? (Verse 4)

3. To be born out of a mother's womb (v. 4) is the same as being born out of "water" (v. 5) or in other words to be born out of "flesh" (v. 6). Jesus says that this physical birth is not enough to enter into "the kingdom of God." What type of birth is needed to enter that Kingdom? (Verses 5 & 6)

* Note: A woman who is pregnant with a child carries her baby in her womb which is filled with "water" - technically called "amniotic fluid." In this context, Jesus' reference to "water" is to the womb from which a child enters this life. Job 38:8 also uses the analogy of water issuing out of a womb.

4. Because the new birth is a spiritual birth and not a physical or visible birth, what does Jesus compare this birth to? (Verse 8)

5. What did God do for you so that you could be "born again" and have everlasting life? (John 3:16)

6. It is sad that not everyone has this everlasting life. God's Word says that there are two groups of people in this world. According to John 3:36, what are these two groups?
-

7. What does a person have to do with Jesus Christ in order to become a child of God? (SEE: John 1:12)
-

To "receive" Jesus Christ means to accept Him by faith to be your very own Lord and Saviour from sin and Hell. The Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin so that you would not be condemned for your sin (Romans 8:1). He then arose from the dead so you too will live through Him (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus suffered your penalty so that you could be brought into right relationship with God (I Peter 3:18). He is your only way to everlasting life (John 14:6). The day you call upon Jesus and receive Him, you are saved from perishing and become a member of God's family (Romans 10:13)!

Have you ever accepted Jesus Christ into your heart? (SEE: Revelation 3:20)

8. Who is that giving us this new birth (John 1:13)? Circle one:
a. Your father/mother b. Pastor. c. God
9. God knew in advance who would be part of His family. This is called "predestination." How did He make you His child? (Ephesians 1:5)
-

10. If you have been adopted into God's family, you can now call God by what name? (Romans 8:15)
-

(Note: "Abba" is the Aramaic word for Papa or Daddy)

11. What does our loving God call us when we are born again? SEE: I John 3:1*
* (Note: "I John" ["First John"] refers to the first epistle of John near the end of your Bible.)
-

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING "BORN AGAIN?"

Just as growing children have a tendency to "take after" their parents; children of God will also take after their Heavenly Father as they grow up spiritually. What will God's children be like?

Those who are born of God will:

I John 2:29 - _____

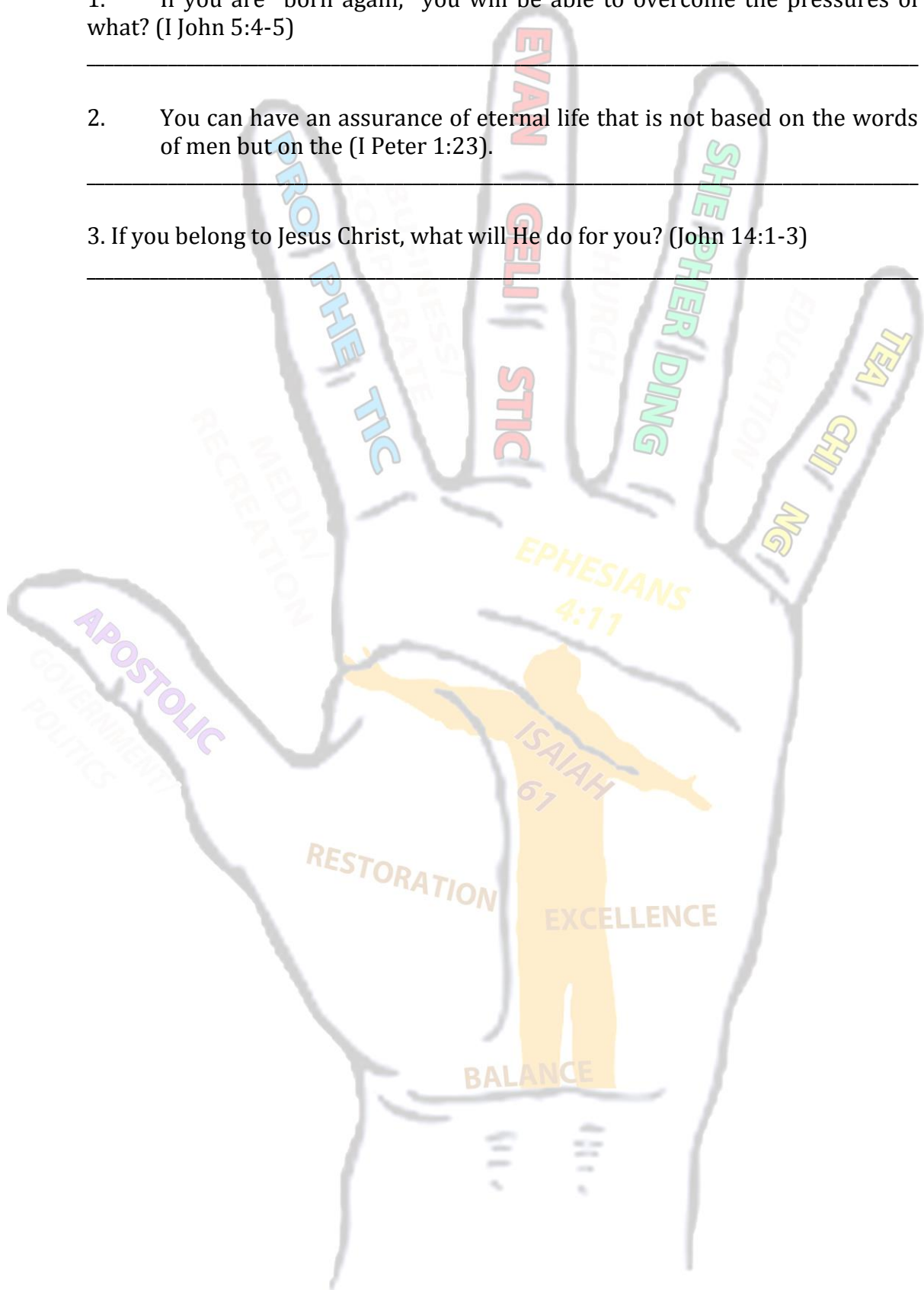
I John 4:7 - _____

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING "BORN AGAIN"?

1. If you are "born again," you will be able to overcome the pressures of what? (I John 5:4-5)

2. You can have an assurance of eternal life that is not based on the words of men but on the (I Peter 1:23).

3. If you belong to Jesus Christ, what will He do for you? (John 14:1-3)



MEMORY VERSE - JOHN 3:16

LESSON 2

"A New Future" (A Change in My Assurance)

Many people are concerned about their future. To prepare for future years on earth, many have invested money into social security, retirement annuity and life insurance, etc. While such investments may provide a sense of peace of mind for many, they do not guarantee you that you will live long enough to benefit from them, nor do they give you assurance of life after death.

The best "insurance" cannot be purchased from man, but it can be freely yours from God. If you are a "born again" Christian (See lesson 1), your Heavenly Father wants you to feel secure in His family. Therefore, God has already provided real "insurance" for your future so that you can have a new peace of mind and a real assurance of everlasting life.

This lesson will unfold God's eternal security for your future.

WHAT ABOUT MY FUTURE?

READ I Peter 1:3-9 and then answer these questions:

1. Someone who is in God's family has a future inheritance where? (I Peter 1:4)

 2. Complete this sentence from verse 5 - God promises that this inheritance is "reserved" for those people who are.

 3. Look at your answer to question 2 again. In your answer what word do you think shows that the believer is securely "guarded" by God so that he will never lose his future inheritance in Heaven?

 4. God again promises that you will receive something in the future because of your faith in Christ. What is it? (Verses 5 & 9)

- {Note: It is important to remember that you will not only have eternal life in the future, but you have it right now! (John 3:36; 5:24)}
5. Even though we are saved, and God loves us, is the Christian life always an easy life without difficulties? (Verses 6 & 7)

6. Even though no believer living today has ever seen Jesus Christ with his eyes, what does our belief in Him cause us to do? (Verse 8)
-

HOW LONG WILL I BE SAVED?

READ **John 10:27-30** and answer the following questions:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd (Psalm 23) and we who trust Him are His sheep. What did He do for us so that we could become His sheep and live eternally? (See: John 10:11)
-

2. If you are one of Christ's sheep, what two evidences will be in your life to show that you are His? (John 10:27)

1) _____ 2) _____

[Note: We hear Christ's voice today as He speaks to us through His Word - The Bible]

3. What does Jesus freely give to His sheep? (Verse 28)
-

4. How long do you think "eternal life" will last? [Circle one]

a. Until I commit a sin

b. Until I die

c. For ever and ever

5. If you have eternal life, what two things does Jesus promise will never happen to you? (Verse 28)
-

6. It is true that no one can ever remove you from the hand of Christ. Will Christ ever release you and throw you away? (See: John 6:37)
-

7. What can separate you from the love of Christ? (See: Romans 8:35-39)
-

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SIN?

God does not want any of His children to sin (I John 2:1). But when you do sin, it is not necessary for you to be saved again. God never disowns His children. When you sin, your relationship with God does not end, but your closeness to Him and your joy will be hurt.

1. What should you do when you sin? (I John 1:9)
-

2. What does this verse say God will do? (I John 1:9)
-

(For more help about forgiveness, see: Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51; Proverbs 28:13; James 4:7-10)

WHAT SHOULD I TRUST?

Read 1 John 5:11-13 and write down one reason why you know that you have eternal life: _____

Friend, don't trust your feelings about your salvation, but trust the facts of God's Word - The Bible. God's Word promised you eternal life through faith in Christ alone (John 3:16). Can God ever lie or go back on His promise? (See: Titus 1:2)

Your Saviour will never abandon you. He has promised: "...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:6; See also Psalm 37:28)



Lesson 3
"A New Food" (A Change in Appetite)

A popular phrase repeated by health food advocates is: "You are what you eat." It is a recognized fact that good health depends largely on a well-balanced diet. Like your physical health, your spiritual health and growth also depends on what you "eat," or take into your life. Therefore, your inner man - the spiritual part of you- must be fed. God has some "spiritual food" for you to consume and digest so that you will be a healthy, strong, growing Christian. This food is His Word – the Bible.

In this lesson, you will discover how important it is for you to know the Bible, God's Holy Word.

IS THE BIBLE NECESSARY FOOD?

When someone is "born again," everything becomes new (2 Corinthians 5:17), including one's appetites.

1. Job had an appetite for God's Word. He depended on it so much He considered it to be more necessary than what? (Job 23:12)

2. The Lord Jesus Christ said that man does not merely live by bread (food) alone but by what? (Matthew. 4:4)

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3 and answer these questions:

3. A new Christian, like a new born baby, needs to have an appetite or "desire" for what? (1 Peter 2:2)

4. Why should he desire this? (1 Peter 2:2)

5. Before you can "take in" God's Word and benefit from it, what must you first "put out" of your life? (Verse 1)

IS THE BIBLE WHOLESOME FOOD?

The Bible will improve your life if you read it daily. The reason is because the Bible is absolutely true and trustworthy. You can totally depend on it, because it is God's Word to man; it is not man's Word about God.

1. Who guided God's prophets so that they wrote exactly what God wanted? (2 Peter 1:20, 21)

This guidance is called "inspiration." Inspiration simply means that the Bible came from the very heart and mind of God (Isaiah 45:23).

2. How much of the Bible has been inspired by God? (2 Timothy 3:16)
-

3. Since the Bible is God's very own Word, what is it profitable for? (2 Timothy 3:16)
-
-

For further information about the accuracy and dependability of the Bible, read: Matthew 5:18, 24:35; John 10:35, 17:17; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12; Revelation 22:18-19.

WHAT DO I DO TO GROW?

1. The condition of your heart will determine whether you grow as you read the Bible. Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23.

Note:

The Seed = the Word of God

The Soil = The Heart of man

2. Many people have different attitudes about the Bible. Match the letter to the statements:

1. Hard heart (v.19)	a. "It's not worth the effort."
2. Stony heart (v.20-21)	b. "I want to know God's Word."
3. Thorny heart (v.22)	c. "I don't care what God says."
4. Tender heart (v.23)	d. "I have other things to worry about. Other things are more important to me."

3. Turn to **Psalm 119**. This entire chapter emphasizes the importance of the Bible. Nearly every verse has something to say about God's Word.

Before you sit down to read your Bible, what should you ask God to do for you? (Psalm 119:18; compare also verses 33-34).

4. King David, whom God used to pen Psalm 119, said, "Incline my heart unto thy testimonies" (v. 36). This means he asked God to give him a desire or a hunger for the Bible.

Read verses 97, 113, 127, 163, 167. What one word describes David's attitude toward the Bible?

5. God's Word is considered to be "better" than _____ and _____ (verse 72), and "sweeter" than _____ (verse 103).

How much does the Bible mean to you?

6. Many times, sin in our lives will keep us from hungering for God's Word. It has been said that "Sin will keep you from this Book (the Bible), and this Book will keep you from sin." What should you do with God's Word to keep yourself from sin? (Psalm 119:11)
-

It is very important to memorize verses from the Bible, especially verses that will help you with an area of weakness or temptation in your life.

7. Besides "hiding God's Word in his heart," what else did David do with God's Word? (Psalm 119:15, 23, 97, 99)
-

To "meditate" on God's Word means spending time to seriously think about what God's Word says, what it means, and what it means to you.

8. What are the benefits of meditating on God's Word?

Psalm 1:1-3 _____

Joshua 1:8 _____

The purpose for reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word is so that you will do what God says. In other words, God gave us His Word so that we would trust it and obey it.

9. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What does the Lord Jesus call those who do what He says? (Verses 24-25)
-

10. What does the Lord Jesus call those who do not do what He says? (Verses 26-27)
-

For further help about obeying God's Word, see: James 1:19-25.

Lesson 4
A New Faith: (Trusting God to answer prayer)

Begin memorizing 1 JOHN 5:12-13

“He who has the Son has life; he, who does not have the Son of God, does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Hebrews 6:18-19—He has given us both his promise and His oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to Him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that He will give them the salvation He has promised them. This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God Himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven. (THE LIVING BIBLE paraphrased).

It is a comfort to know that God intends for us to be sure of our salvation. He simply wants us to have faith, trusting Him and believing He will do everything He said. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. God is faithful and keeps His promises.
- B. He promises us eternal life.
- C. We obtain His promises by faith.
- D. We know we have the eternal life He promises.

PRAY before you start! Answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

ASSURANCE means to have the evidence and proof to know for certain that something is true.

FAITHFULNESS refers to the character of someone who has shown he is trustworthy and can be relied upon to keep his word.

1. How is God described regarding His promise? Hebrews 10:23

2. If we don't believe or have faith, what happens to God's faithfulness? II Timothy 2:13

3. What does God promise us?
I John 2:25 _____
Titus 1:2 _____

4. How do we obtain or inherit the promise of God for ourselves?
Hebrews 6:12 _____

FAITH IS THE KEY THAT OPENS THE TREASURE CHEST OF GOD'S PROMISES.

5. What pleases God?
Hebrews 11:5-6 _____
6. Where do we get our faith?
Romans 10:17 _____

OUR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS CHANGE FROM DAY TO DAY. ON SOME DAYS WE MAY NOT "FEEL" LIKE GOD LOVES US. DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. THE DEVIL CAN USE THEM TO PUT DOUBT (OPPOSITE OF FAITH) IN OUR MINDS TO TRY TO DESTROY OUR FAITH. WE SHOULD NOT PUT OUR TRUST IN FEELINGS THAT WILL CHANGE.

7. Who or what should we trust in, that never changes?
1 Peter 1:24-25 _____
Hebrews 13:8 _____

WHILE OUR FEELINGS COME AND GO, WE CAN HAVE OUR FAITH STEADY AND SOLID BY BASING IT ON WHAT GOD HAS SAID IN HIS WORD. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE THINGS GOD HAS TOLD US.

8. When we come to Jesus, what is the one thing He has promised NOT to do?
John 6:37 _____
9. What can separate us from the love God has for us?
Romans 8:38-39 _____
10. When we yield to God's Spirit and let Him lead us, who does the Bible say we are?
Romans 8:14 _____
11. We are told to love one another. What does the Bible say about those who have God's love?
1John 3:14 _____
1John 4:7 _____
12. Because God (our Father) disciplines us when we go against His will, what does this tell us about our relationship with Him?
Hebrews 12:6-7 _____
13. How can we be sure that we know God?
1John 2:3 _____

Lesson 5

Teaching on Baptism

Memory Verse: ROMANS 6:4

Introduction

This very important study will look into three types of baptisms every believer must undergo. These are: **The Baptism into Christ and His body**

The Baptism in Water or Water baptism

The Holy Spirit Baptism

1. Baptism Into Christ and His Body

What does it mean to be baptized into Christ?

Discuss:

- Being Baptized into Christ by one spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13
- By putting on Christ Galatians 3:27
- By having one faith in Christ Ephesians 4:5;
- By being partakers of his body 1 Corinthians 10:17

2. Water Baptism

- Our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized. Mt. 3:13-17
- The first set of converts after the Pentecost was baptized. Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, 38. As people gave their life to Christ they were immediately baptized. Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8. All of the above gave us the scriptural evidence of water baptism.

Why water baptism must be by immersion:

- The word baptism in Greek is "Baptizo" which means to submerge or immerse.
 - It expressed the reality of burial with Christ (Rom. 6:4).
 - Bible references indicate it being carried out by and in the river. (Mt. 3:6, 13)

The importance and or significance of water baptism:

- It is an outward symbol of an inward reality - genuine conversion.
- It is a symbol of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:3-6). It is an open declaration of separation from the world.
- It is to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling all righteousness. Mat. 3: 3-15; I Pet. 2: 21; John 13:5.

In whose name should water baptism be carried out?

- We are to be baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- The Minister of God (The Pastor) is the agent of this type of Baptism. Matt. 28:19.

How appropriate or scriptural is infant baptism?

Discuss. (Acts 8: 12)

- The scripture demands repentance toward God and faith towards Christ (Acts 20: 21) as basic conditions for Water Baptism and no child can do this until he or she is matured enough to understand sin and what to do to be saved.

Water baptism is a command

- Water baptism is a command it is not optional, so long as a believer remains alive after conversion. Mark 16:16

3. Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is different from His work of baptism;
 - In regeneration, there is impartation of the divine life or nature of God (I Pet. 1:4),
 - But in baptism with the Holy Spirit there is impartation of divine Power for effective Christian service. Lk.24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8; 3:1

What is the immediate outward sign of the Holy Spirit Baptism?

- Acts 2:4; Acts 8:17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6-7
- It gives power for effective and result oriented Christian service. Acts 1:8; 2:41
- It imparts boldness for service. Acts 2: 1-14; Acts 4:31; Prov. 28:1
- At regeneration, we have Holy Spirit as "resident" in the believer but at the Holy Spirit baptism, we have Him as the "President".

Who should receive this baptism and when?

- Discuss Mark 16:17; Acts 10:44; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 5:32

Who is the agent of baptism in this case?

- Luke 3:16. The Lord Jesus Christ is the agent of Holy Spirit baptism.
- **BAPTISM** means to be immersed or dipped into something.

So that you will not become confused, you need to know that there are several terms which refer to "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and they all mean the same thing.

- Acts 2:4 – "Filled with the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 2:33 – "The promise of the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 2:38 – "The gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Acts 11:15 – “Holy Spirit fell (came) on them.”
- Luke 24:49 – “The promise of My Father.”

3.1. Who does the Bible say the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for?

Acts 2:38-39 _____
 Has God called you to salvation? _____
 Is this promise for you? _____

In John 14:16-17, Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been **WITH** them and would soon be **IN** them. The Spirit came inside them in John 20:22. After Jesus had been resurrected, He spoke to them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Before we are saved, the Holy Spirit is **WITH** us calling us to Jesus. When we are born again, the Spirit comes **INSIDE** us to teach and guide us. All true believers have the Holy Spirit living inside them. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that the Spirit would also be **ON** or **UPON** them.

3.2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came ON them?

Acts 1:8 _____

The Greek word for **POWER** is “dunamis,” where we get our words “dynamite” and “dynamic.” It is also translated strength, ability, authority, and might.

Jesus knows our weaknesses and that we do not have the strength we need to continually follow Him or do things for Him, so He supplies us with the **POWER** (dunamis) we need. We do not have to do it on our own!

3.3. The Father strengthens us through the power of His Spirit in our inner being for what purpose?

Ephesians 3:16-17 _____

3.4. After the disciples received this power, what would it give them the ability to be?

Acts 1:8 _____

WITNESS – To be a witness, means to testify that something is true. The disciples went out testifying that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

3.5. When Peter and John were released from jail, they gathered together and prayed. What did they pray for the Lord to enable them to do?

Acts 4:29 _____

3.6. The Lord answered Peter and John’s prayer almost immediately. What did the Lord do to give them the boldness they asked for?

Acts 4:31 _____

3.7. When Saul (later his name was changed to Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did he begin doing right away?

Acts 9:17, 20 _____

Another aspect of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit wants to give each of us “spiritual gifts” or supernatural abilities to **EDIFY** (build up faith or strengthen) ourselves and other believers. The Bible refers to believers as the “body of Christ.” Jesus is the head and each of us is given a gift (or gifts) that empower us to function as a part of that body.

- 3.8. Who decided which spiritual gifts each of us will have in the body of Christ?
1 Corinthians 12:18 _____
- 3.9. What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives to different parts of the body?
1 Corinthians 12:8-10 _____
- 3.10. What should we desire to do with our spiritual gifts?
1 Corinthians 14:12 _____
- 3.11. When all the spiritual gifts are working properly in the body of Christ, what will the body do for itself?
Ephesians 4:16 _____

NOTE

EPHESIANS 4:11

ISAIAH 61

RESTORATION

EXCELLENCE

BALANCE