

03 – THREE KINDS OF BAPTISM

- ✓ We've been discussing "different kinds of the same thing" in the Bible. There are different kinds of nearly everything. There are 2 kinds of knowledge, righteousness, goodness, suffering, testing, and tongues. 3 kinds of life, death, faith, and baptism. 4 kinds of love and confession. 6 kinds of sin, and 9 kinds of prayer.

4.) Three Kinds of Baptism

- ✓ Before I list the kinds of baptism, let me define the word "baptism" itself. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means, "to immerse", or to "plunge into", or to "make fully wet".
- ✓ Historically, the word "baptism" was used to describe a ship that sank, or the process of dyeing a garment. (When a ship sinks, it's completely covered with water. When you dye a garment, you immerse it into the dye.) Each of these three kinds of baptism is going to describe an "immersion" into something.

A.) The New Birth

- ✓ It's unlikely that you've ever thought of the new birth as a "baptism". But it's the first baptism we experience in the Christian life.

1 Cor. 12:13 (AUV) – "For by one Spirit are we all baptized (plunged) into the one body."

- ✓ When you receive Christ, the Holy Ghost picks you up by the "nape of the neck" and plunges you into the Body of Christ. We call it "salvation", but Scripture refers to it as "baptism" into the Body.

B.) Water Baptism

- ✓ We're all familiar with this one, so I'll just touch on the basics.

- (i) Water Baptism Doesn't Save You – Scripture makes that *very* clear. There are a few *fringe* groups that believe in "baptismal regeneration". (That is, they believe that you're saved by being baptized in water.) But the Bible doesn't teach that.
- ✓ There are *several* examples of people being saved, apart from water baptism. The thief on the Cross was *never* baptized, yet Jesus said, "Today, you'll be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). Saul of Tarsus was saved on the road to Damascus, *before* being water baptized (Acts 9). And, the same is true of Cornelius' household (Acts 10).

If Water Baptism Doesn't Save You, What's the Point of It?

- ✓ Water baptism is a *symbol*, (much like a wedding ring). Think About It: Putting on a ring on your finger doesn't make you "married".
- ✓ Suppose I'm single, and I *really* want to be married. So, I drive down to the jewelry store, buy a ring, put it on my finger, and say, "There! Now, I'm married!" Is that how it works? No. Putting a ring on doesn't make you "married". You get married *first*. Then you put a ring on your finger as a *symbol* of your marriage. (It says, "I belong to somebody!" But it's just a symbol!)
- ✓ Same thing is true with baptism. Being "dunked" in water doesn't *make* you a Christian. You become a Christian by accepting Jesus. Then you get baptized as a symbol.

(ii) What Is Water Baptism a Symbol Of?

- ✓ Baptism symbolizes the fact that the "man you used to be" has died. In baptism, you're symbolically "burying him", then "raising him up" to walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 (MSG) – "That's what baptism means. When we are lowered into water, it's like a burial."

- ✓ That's why we baptize by immersion. (Remember, all of these are an "immersion" into something.) In sprinkling, the symbolism is lost.

C.) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Mark 1:6-8 – “Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”

Observations

(i) Jesus is the One who Baptizes You in the Holy Ghost

- ✓ Some Christians are uncomfortable with the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. But, if it’s from Jesus, you can trust it.

(ii) The Purpose of H.G. Baptism

- ✓ Some folks think it’s about the tongues. It’s not. (It’s not about *tongues*, it’s about *power*.)

Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost comes upon you, and you shall **be My witnesses** ...”

- ✓ What’s the power for? It’s power to be a witness. Now, don’t misunderstand that. He didn’t say it’s power to stand on a street corner and preach Jesus. (It’s not power to **DO something** called witnessing. It’s power to **BE a witness**. To live in such a way that every part of your life witnesses to the truth of the Gospel.)
- ✓ I used to tell the students, “The Christian life isn’t hard.” It’s not! It’s impossible. You can’t do it in your own strength. You need help. The Holy Ghost gives you the power to live this Christian life.

(iii) What Is the Baptism in the Holy Ghost?

- ✓ **It’s just more of the same H.G. that you received** in the New Birth. (At the new birth, the Holy Ghost came to live **IN** you. At the Baptism in the H.G., He rests **UPON** you, to give you power.)

The New Birth is the Spirit “Within”

John 14:16-17 – “I will ask the Father, and he will send another Comforter, who will be with you forever. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and it doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be **IN you.**”

1 Cor. 6:19-20 – “What? Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is **IN you** ...”

1 John 4:4 – “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is **IN you**, than he that is in the world.”

- ✓ Every born-again believer has the Holy Spirit living **IN** them. He comes “in” at the new birth. But there’s a second experience that’s available. At the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, He comes **UPON** us.

The Baptism in the H.G is the Spirit “Upon”

Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost comes **UPON** you ...”

Acts 2:17 – “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit **UPON** all flesh ...”

Acts 19:6 – “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came **ON** them ...”

(iv) The New Birth and the Baptism in the H.G. are Separate Experiences

Acts 19:1-2 – “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain **disciples**, He said unto them, Have you received the Holy Ghost **since you believed?**” (So, **they’re already believers and disciples.**)

- ✓ Now look at the question he asked them. “Have you received the Holy Ghost **SINCE** you believed? (As Christians, the Holy Ghost was already “in” them, but He wasn’t yet “on” them.)

Verse 12 – “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came **ON** them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

(v) What Good Are Tongues?

⇒ When You Pray in Tongues, **You Bypass Your Limited Mind**

1 Cor. 14:14 (Int) – “For when I pray in a language that I don’t understand, my spirit is praying by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, but my mind isn’t participating.”

✓ When you pray in tongues, essentially, you’re setting your mind aside and praying out of your spirit. Now, why is that a good thing? It’s good because your mind is limited, but the Holy Spirit isn’t. Since He gives you the words ...

⇒ **You Can Pray About Situations You Know Little or Nothing About**

Romans 8:26 (NTFE) – “The Spirit of God helps us in our **limitations**.” (Notice, Paul says that we have limitations in our prayer lives. How are we limited?) “**We don’t know what to pray for** as we ought”.

✓ Sometimes, we don’t have enough *information* to pray an effective prayer. Suppose you have a loved one in the hospital, and the nurse is about to give them a lethal dose of the wrong medication. How would you know to pray for that? You wouldn’t. And that’s where tongues come in.

1 Cor. 14:2 – (Moffatt) – “For he who speaks in an unknown tongue is speaking **DIVINE SECRETS** in the Spirit...” (You’re praying details about the situation that only God knows!)

⇒ When You Pray in Tongues, **You Pray a Perfect Prayer, in the Perfect Will of God**

Romans 8:27 – “He who searches the hearts, knows what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us **in harmony with God’s own will**.” (1 Jn. 5:1-15)