

Instruction about Baptisms

- Hebrews 6:2, *“instruction about baptisms...”* notice it’s in the plural
- The word ‘Baptized’ comes from the Greek word ‘baptizo’ (bap-tid’-zo)
 - o To immerse or submerge into something; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet)
- There are four different baptisms that we see in Scripture which we’ll explore together

Baptized into the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

The very first baptism is the most important one. When an individual confesses Jesus as their Lord and Savior, he/she is born again, they are immediately connected into the Body of Christ.

- **Please Read: 1 Cor. 12:14-31**
- The body analogy shows how we are all connected and complement one another
- We all share a symbiotic relationship and connection to the Body of Jesus Christ
 - o An interdependent or mutually beneficial harmony with each other
 - o We all serve a unique purpose that contributes to the whole
- Jesus serves as the Head of His body His Church- **Eph. 5:23, 30; Col. 1:24**

Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 4:15-16, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. “

Ephesians 2:19-22, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

- **Please Read: Ro. 11:13-27** grafted into the vine and olive tree
- Faith grafts us into Jesus and unbelief = being broken off- **Heb. 3:19**
- Ro. 11:17, *"Now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root"*
- **Please Read: John 15:1-8**
- The vine (Jesus) supports the branch and through the branch fruit is manifested
- Apart from Jesus, the Head, the Olive Tree and the Vine we can do nothing

John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 3:27, "To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven."

- Everything we have in the Lord we have received from Him- **1 Cor. 4:6-7**
- **Please Read: Romans 12:4-8**
- Like in a human body, each part has a function, gifts and grace to contribute
- We all have assigned tasks to perform and a work to do- **1 Cor. 3:5-10**
- No one is exempt from doing something that adds value to the Kingdom of God

Colossians 4:17

Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Water Baptism

There has been a lot of debate about the manner in which water baptism should be administered: sprinkle, dab, brush, dip, dunk etc. Also do we baptize people into the Name of Jesus, or by the Trinity- **Mt. 28:19; Acts 8:16; 19:5.**

In keeping with the definition of 'Baptism' which speaks of complete immersion and fully wet. To perform water baptism, one would need a lot of water that is deep enough to submerge.

John 3:23, "Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized."

Matthew 3:4-6, “John’s clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”

- We first see water baptism introduced in the ministry of John
- What is it about water baptism that is so beautiful and power for us as Christians?
 - o Water Represents: cleansing, consecration and repentance

Ephesians 5:25-26

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word

- **Please Read: John 13:1-17** *Only need to take a bath once in Christ*
- Water Baptism also speaks of the New Birth- rebirth of the human spirit

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior

- Jesus was thirty years old when He was water baptized- **Mt. 3:13-17; Lk. 3:23**
- Water Baptism is a conscious decision on behalf of the one being water baptized
- **Please Read: 1 Peter 3:18-22** *Water Baptism does not save us!*
- It’s an ordinance given by the Lord Jesus Himself in the Great Commission- **Mt. 28:19-20**

Ephesians 4:4-6, “There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

- The early church regularly practiced water baptism after folks were born again
 - o **Acts 2:38,41; 8:12-16, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5**
- It’s an outward testimony of an inward work- declaring to the world we follow Jesus
 - o I liken water baptism to a celebration of a brand new life in Jesus
- A wonderful picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus-us identified with Him

Col 2:12,

“Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Dead to the World, Flesh & Devil

It's what water baptism represents that is so powerful- passing from death unto life. This ordinance is a symbolic expression which demonstrates the extent by which we have identified with Jesus in His redemptive work.

- Total victory over sin, death and the devil- **Php. 3:7-16; 1 Jn. 5:1-12;**
- **Please Read: Romans 6:1-4**
- Immersion under water: identification with Jesus' - death to sin
 - o Represents being buried with Jesus, having died to sin with Him on the cross
- Gal. 2:20, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*
- Having died to the old sinful spiritual nature, we crucify the sinful nature in our body

Galatians 5:24, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."

- **Please Read: Romans 6:5-10**
- Coming back up out of the water: identification with Jesus' resurrection to life
 - o United with Jesus in His resurrection unto eternal life
 - o Having died to the old life and old sinful satanic spiritual nature
 - o To be fully free from something, we have to die to it- **Ro. 7:4**
 - o Gal. 2:19, *"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God."*
- **Please Read: Romans 6:11-14**
- Coming out of the water: commitment to live a new life in Jesus Christ
 - o Having been born of the Spirit, with the life and nature of God in our spirit
 - o We live out eternal life from the inside out via sanctification
 - **Ro. 12:1-3; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Th. 4:1-8; 1 Pet. 2:11-12; 4:1-2**
 - o Walking in love is the key to holiness- **Ro. 13:8-10**

1 Peter 4:1-2, "Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God."

- God made Jesus who had no sin to become a sinner with our sin so He could defeat it
 - o **Isa. 53:6-12; 1 Cor. 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:21**
- Jesus became what we were so we could become what He is- righteous **Ro. 8:10**
 - o **Php. 3:7-14; Col. 2:13; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:18**
- There is still a sinful nature in our physical body which must be kept under subjection
 - o **Ro.8:1-14; 13:13-14; Gal.5:13-26; Eph.4:17-32; Col.3:1-14; 1Th.4:1-10; 1 Pet.4:1-6**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 10:45) is received the same way as the gift of eternal life (**Ro. 6:23**) by God's grace and through our faith- both gifts are available for all. Luke 11:13, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- To be clear, the born again Christian has the Holy Spirit within them
- We don't even belong to Jesus if we don't have the Holy Spirit in our spirit- **Ro. 8:9**
- Our body is the temple of our spirit and of the Holy Spirit who dwells in our spirit
 - o **1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 6:16; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 John 2:20, 27**
- The Holy Spirit becomes our paraclete (Counselor)- **Jn. 14:15-17; 20:22; 16:7-15**
- This is known as the Holy Spirit within the believer at the New Birth
- When the Holy Spirit makes us (spirit) a new creation, He remains within us- **Tit. 3:4-7**

John 4:10-11, 13-14

The Spirit within- well of salvation- living water- for us

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 7:37-39, "On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.' By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

- There's a 2nd separate & distinct experience with the Holy Spirit after being born again
- Known as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit coming upon the believer
- Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit- to be immersed in Holy Spirit Power & Fire

Matthew 3:11

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire

- God commands that all people everywhere to repent and believe on Jesus- **Acts 17:30**
- Likewise Jesus commands all born again believers to be baptized with the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4-5

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- Commands remove all doubt on whether it's God's will or not- **Acts 2:38-39**
- There was 120 in the upper room who had received- **Acts 1:12-15, 2:1-5**
- On the day of Pentecost, they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and with Fire
- The prerequisite to being Baptized with the Holy Spirit = must be born again first
 - o **Acts 8:4-25; 10:34-48; 11:11-18; 19:1-7**
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit opens the door to the supernatural in the believer's life
 - o **Acts 2:43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6, 13; 14:3; 15:12; Ro. 15:17-19; 1Cor. 2:1-4; Heb. 2:4**

Power to be a Witness- Fulfill the Great Commission

In **Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20** and **Mark 16:15-20** the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ received a divine mandate or commission to preach the Gospel message (**1 Cor. 15:1-8**) to the world.

- Are we to do so glibly in our own strength/mental acumen- No! **Acts 4:29-31; 2 Cor. 3:5**
- 1 Cor. 4:20, “*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*”
- **Please Read: Luke 24:45-49** *Clothed With Power*
- Jesus told them and us today, don't try and fulfill the Great Commission without power
- We are to maintain this Spirit-filled experience- **Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16; Jude 20**
- There is one infilling, but many refillings- be being filled with the Spirit- continuous

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Initial Evidence – Speak in Tongues

On the day of Pentecost they all spoke in other languages (tongues) as the Spirit gave the utterance- a supernatural flowing forth, a vocal miracle- **Isa. 28:11-12; Mk. 16:17; Acts 2:5-15**

- The Holy Spirit provides the utterance and we do the speaking- He does not make us
- Speaking in the tongues of men or angels (**1 Cor. 13:1**) is not all there is to this Baptism
- There is boldness to preach the gospel; confirming with signs and wonders etc.
- There are four kinds or uses for speaking in other tongues that I see in Scripture
 - o 1- Devotional- to build yourself up- **1Cor. 14:1-19; Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16; Jude 20**
 - o 2- Ministry Tongues- with interpretation- **1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:26-33**
 - o 3- Sign to Unbelievers- **Acts 2:5-12; 1 Cor. 14:22**
 - o 4- Intercessory- groaning and travail- **Isa. 66:8; Ro. 8:22-27; Gal. 4:19**

Baptism of Martyrdom

Remember baptism means full immersion into something, and in regards to this fourth kind of baptism, it speaks of absolute full committal; in this case laying one's life down. Luke 12:50, *"But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!"*

- **Please Read: John 10:14-18** *Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us*
- Rev. 13:8, *"...the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world."*
- As we see so graphically depicted all through the OT, lambs were slain for the guilty

John 1:29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Lk. 23:34, *"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.'"*
- Stephen was the 1st Church martyr, *'Lord do not hold this sin against them'* - **Acts 7:55-60**
- According to church history, all the Lord's apostles were martyred, except John
- Jesus had foretold of Peter's death, according to tradition he was crucified upside down

John 21:18-19

"I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

- Remember it's not how we start our race but how we finish and glorify God through it
 - o Either we choose to glorify God with being satisfied with long life- **Ps. 19:16**
 - o Or we go out with a bang and glorify God by giving our physical life in baptism
- This is a deeply personal thing between us and the Lord- how we leave this earth
- The devil cannot take our life from us, we lay it down willingly like Jesus- **Jn. 10:18**

Hebrews 11:35, "Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection."

- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 4:6-8**
- Church history tells us that the apostle Paul was beheaded by Nero- Roman emperor

A Cross to carry

Jesus had paid in full the price for our glorious redemption and salvation. There is nothing we can add to the finished work of Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

- However, as disciples of Christ we can honor His sacrifice with our lives devoted to Him

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Romans 12:1, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship."

- **Please Read: Luke 14:25-35** *Counting the Cost of Following Jesus*
- To love anyone more than Jesus, makes us unworthy of Him- **Mt. 10:37-39**
- Do Christians have a cross to carry in this life? **Mt. 16:24-26**
- Luke 9:23 tells us that carrying our cross is meant to be done on a daily basis

Galatians 6:14-15

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

The Cup of Suffering

Other than a cup of cold water (**Mt. 10:42**), the analogy of cups in the Bible are serious- **Revelation 14:9-10; 16:19**. There are things that Jesus suffered as our substitute that we need not to suffer. It would be wise for us to know what those things are; less we suffer needlessly in vain according to **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**.

1 Peter 4:19

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

- This very chapter in 1 Peter 4 mentions two things Christians will suffer in this life
- **1 Peter 4:1-3**- saying no to temptation and crucifying the flesh- **1 Cor. 9:24-27; Gal 5:24**
- **1 Peter 4:12-16**- suffering persecution as a Christian- **2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 10:33**
- We are not to suffer sickness, poverty or satanic oppression- **Acts 10:38**
- Jesus suffered for doing good as an example for us to follow- **1 Pet. 2:18-25**

Mark 14:35-36

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Luke 22:43-44

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

- Consider what Jesus went through in the Garden of Gethsemane- **Mt. 26:38-39**
- His humanity did not want to be scourged, beaten and crucified
- Jesus knew that He would become sin, tasting death for us all- **Heb. 2:9-10, 14-18**
- When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, notice what He said to Peter

John 18:11

"Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?'"

- When we take communion, it's a beautiful and powerful time of remembrance
 - o By faith it's a participation in the blood of Jesus- **1 Cor. 10:16-17**
- The cup representing the blood of Jesus shed; His life given and our souls saved

Luke 22:20

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

- James and John wanted to sit at Jesus' right and left, without realizing the cost
- **Please Read: Mark 10:35-40** *Speaking of His death, burial and resurrection*
- **Please Read: Philippians 3:7-16** *Laying our life down for the faith*
- Since the Church began, countless saints have made the ultimate sacrifice for Jesus
Lk.14:26; Jn.20:19; Acts 7:55-59; Php.2:17; 2 Tim.4:6; Heb.11:32-40; Rev.2:10; 16:6; 18:20
- John 15:13, "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*"