

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
(Mark 16:15)

John the Baptist was fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi when he began baptizing in the Jordan River. He was a voice in the wilderness declaring that people must repent and be baptized for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. If we repent and keep God's commandments, we will inherit eternal life. If we don't, then we will perish. Heaven is a free gift and much too wonderful to miss out on.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in.
(Malachi 3:1)

John declared that the Messiah was here to remove the sin of the world. John told everyone that Jesus is the Savior. Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead to make us new creatures. We must be born-again to

become new creatures in Christ Jesus. We are born of water and the Spirit. It is very easy to become born-again. All we have to do is ask Jesus to forgive us and be water baptized and live for Him. If you Study the Word and pray continually, the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. After we are born-again, we learn to walk by faith. Some Christians never learn who they are or what belongs to them. This book will help you obtain the knowledge to receive the anointing, power, and gifts of God.

John was baptizing people in natural water. He said the Messiah would baptize them in the Holy Ghost and fire. John leaped in his mother's womb when the name of Jesus was mentioned. The power in the name of Jesus will quicken your mortal body. All power is in the precious and glorious name of Jesus. SPEAK THE NAME AND WATCH GOD DO MIRACLES!

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire. (Matthew 3:11)

John the Baptist was preparing everyone to receive from the living God. John recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God. John baptized Jesus in water and the Holy Ghost came upon Him without measure. John saw the Holy Spirit descend upon the Word of God (Jesus). The Spirit and the Word came together again.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto

him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(Matthew 3:13, 16, 17)

Jesus was thirty years old when He was baptized in water and started His public ministry (Luke 3:23). The Book of Numbers tells us in chapter four, that whoever was called to the ministry had to be between thirty and fifty years of age. Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures and began performing miracles. The number thirty means "priesthood" and fifty means "freedom." Jesus became our high priest and set us free.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

There is no longer an age limit to work for God. Rise up and declare the name of Jesus while you are still able to walk, talk and share the good news. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for us to be cleansed from all of our past. Jesus did not need to repent before He was baptized, because He never sinned. Jesus was the spotless lamb that died to remove our sins. **Jesus shed his royal blood for all.** We must repent and believe in His precious blood. True repentance is a broken heart and a contrite spirit. A change occurred in me when I truly repented. A real change takes place in you when you ask Jesus to become your Lord.

The Witness of the Godhead

Jesus (the Word) was conceived in the womb of a virgin by the **Holy Spirit**. He was baptized in **water** and then He shed His **blood** for everyone.

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ: not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

(1 John 5:6-8)

After Jesus was baptized, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit without measure. Signs and wonders were then performed by Jesus. This proved He was God and that He was sent from God. Every believer knew Jesus was the Messiah. Doubting Thomas was eventually convinced after he saw and felt the wounds. We are blessed because we believe, even though we have not seen His wounds.

A Perfect Lamb

Jesus came to establish a new covenant with man. Pilate examined Jesus and found no fault in Him. The lambs were always examined before they were sacrificed. Jesus was examined by Pilate and found to be a perfect lamb.

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

(Matthew 27:24)

Thank God for a spotless lamb that shed His blood for the eternal redemption of mankind. The sacrifice of this one gentle lamb (Jesus) would do away with the sacrificing of thousands of animals for the ages to come. He was crucified on a tree to destroy the law of sin and death. Jesus is the only Savior that can cleanse us from sin.

**And their sins and iniquities will
I remember no more.** (Hebrews 10:17)

There is power in confessing with our mouth the promises of God. We confess, declare and believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord. We do the same in declaring our healing. We become one body in Christ.

Adopted by a Living God

**For as many as are led by the Spirit
of God, they are the sons of God.**

**For ye have not received the
spirit of bondage again to fear; but
ye have received the Spirit of
adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,
Father.** (Romans 8:14, 15)

We must be partakers of the great and glorious message before we can give it to others. People are watching us to see if we have something to offer. God chose the foolishness of preaching the gospel to save souls. I love to see people changed by the power of God. We have the power to lead people in a prayer of repentance. The greatest gift we could ever receive from God is to be born-again. There are many more gifts available to us after we are born-again. We must learn about these gifts in order to receive them. If we don't know about them, how can we ask for them? I will discuss the gifts later.

The world does not understand what church is about. If we show real love and a sincere change in our lives, then we can expect others to want what we have. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a simple message. God sent His only begotten Son to die on a cross to redeem man from wickedness. We can overcome every sin through faith in the blood of Jesus. When we are born-again, God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are His children.

God wants to fellowship with every person on earth. He gave us His plan for man in a book called The Holy Bible. I like to think the letters in the word **Bible** could stand for **B**asic **I**nstruction **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth. How we live our lives now determines what our résumé will look like (when and if) we get to heaven. People argue over which religion is the best to get to heaven. Serving Jesus is not a religion but a lifestyle. There are a lot of religions in the world, but Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. If anyone will ask Jesus to forgive them and live for Him, they will have access to the Creator of all things.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28:19)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

(Acts 2:38)

Only one book in the world tells us to repent and be baptized. True repentance allows the Spirit of God to dwell in us. If we obey the Word of God, we will obtain the benefits and promises of God. Jesus gave us authority to share the gospel and make disciples. We

should study the Word of God to learn what our inheritance is. God wants to use us all to spread the good news. Jesus Christ died and arose from the dead for you and me. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve God and live like the devil. It is God's will for us to be free from sin, sickness, and addictions. We must be delivered from the lust and desires of the flesh in order to serve God. You can have abundant life and live victoriously.

Different Baptisms

The Holy Spirit is our helper and comforter. He helps us to live Godly. After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came to live in all who are born-again. The devil and the fallen angels are looking for a body and so is the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus came, the anointing only came upon four groups of people. They were the prophets, kings, judges and priests. The church really needs a fresh revelation of the word baptism.

There is a lot of revelation in the word baptism. There are several purposes of baptism, but only one Holy Ghost that fills us all. I pray you overflow with fresh oil as you draw closer to Jesus. The words "fresh oil" represents the anointing, or God's Spirit. There are several baptisms in the Bible. One is natural and the other is spiritual. One is with water and the other is with the Holy Spirit. This book will help teach you the purposes and benefits of both baptisms.

**Of the doctrine of baptisms and
the laying on of hands.** (Hebrews 6:2)

**For by one Spirit are we all
baptized into one body.**

(1 Corinthians 12:13a)

**And I will pray the Father, and
he shall give you another Comforter,
that he may abide with you forever;
...for he dwelleth with you, and
shall be in you.** (John 14:16, 17)

Water baptism is commanded by God. It represents the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We are all supposed to get water baptized in some form or another. What I mean by this is that some people are bed-ridden and unable to get into a creek or baptism tank. I poured water on my dad's head when he got saved. It went all over the bed, but we didn't care, this was a special event. Dad went on to heaven about four months later. I had the honor of preaching his going away party—some called it a funeral, but I called it a celebration. I was just happy that dad finally humbled himself and got saved. He had bone, liver and lung cancer, but he has a new body now! I'm sure you have some relatives shouting in heaven right now. Don't ever be afraid or ashamed to shout! Give it up and start glorifying Jesus.

Solomon said to rejoice when one dies and cry when one is born. We have everything backwards. God called a day in Genesis from evening to morning, but we say from morning to night is a day. If you have not been water baptized yet, then get it done. I promise, you will not drown, unless someone is holding you under to make sure you have really repented—just kidding! People are afraid of a little bit of water and they are afraid of the Spirit.

Now the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an opportunity to receive power, revelation, and spiritual gifts. We must believe in order to receive. The word **baptize** comes from the Greek word—**baptidzo**, from **bapto**, which means *to dip, to bury, to cover, to*

surround or submerge. The Word of God is full of examples where people were surrounded, submerged, and under the natural elements. If the natural resources has this much influence, imagine the spiritual influence.

**And Jesus, when he was baptized,
went up straightway out of the water.**

(Matthew 3:16)

**And John also was baptizing in
Aenon near to Salim, because there
was much water there.**

(John 3:23)

**How that all our fathers were
under the cloud, And were all
baptized unto Moses in the cloud and
in the sea.**

(1 Corinthians 10:1)

**Buried with him in baptism,
wherein also ye are risen with him
through the faith of the operation of
God.**

(Colossians 2:12)

We should be submerged in the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit will take you to a higher level in God. The spiritual laws of God are always greater than the natural things of man. Some Christians have only received water (natural) baptism. Water baptism is important, but don't stop there. Get in over your head. If you ever experience the spiritual baptism, you will hunger for more. His presence brings a revelation of humility and holiness. I will never forget when I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I have walked in the supernatural ever since. This spiritual baptism is just as real as it was two thousand years ago.

I have been baptized several times throughout my life. Once when I was twelve years old in a very cold creek in Alabama. I asked Jesus to come into my heart

while attending Vacation Bible School at my grandparent's small Baptist church. There was plenty of excitement from those standing on the creek bank. The Bible clearly tells us to do our first works over if we depart from the faith and come back.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from which thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.

(Revelation 2:4, 5)

You can start serving God all over again because of the power in the blood. Don't be stiff-necked and stubborn, repent and get fired up again. I was also baptized in 1986 after I walked out of the wheelchair. I had rededicated my life back to Jesus once again. If we can be water baptized several times, why can't we be refilled with the Holy Spirit more than one time? There is a spiritual river awaiting you.