

LIVING OUT YOUR BAPTISM Part 2

1 Peter 3:18–21

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Peter identifies three scenes and places them side-by-side to show us something—that these things ALONE do not save!

1. Jesus preached to the spirits in prison, but His preaching ALONE did not save.
2. Noah was saved by the waters (flood), but the waters ALONE did not save.
3. Baptism saves, but the water ALONE does not save.

Peter put it this way...

1 Peter 3:21

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

According to Peter, it's not the water that saves in baptism. It's "the answer of a good conscience towards God" that saves!

1 Peter 3:21 Modern English Version

21 Figuratively this is like baptism, which also saves us now. It is not washing off the dirt from the body, but a response to God from a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

So, the "answer of a good science towards God" is really A GOOD RESPONSE towards God. In other words, our RESPONSE TOWARDS GOD is what actually saves us in baptism!

Last time we shared with you 3 specific ways that we must respond to God if we truly want to LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISM...

AGREE WITH GOD

Luke 7:29–30

29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

You know you're *living out your baptism* (applying baptism to your life) when you stop justifying yourself and learn to AGREE WITH GOD. We do this by saying, "God, I'm wrong and you're right!"

SUBMIT TO GOD

Matthew 3:13–15

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Jesus came to be baptized, not because He wanted to BE right, but because He wanted to DO right (i.e. fulfill all righteousness). Therefore, we *live out our baptism* when we start SUBMITTING TO GOD or doing His will!

YIELD TO GOD

Matthew 20:22

22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Notice how "baptism" is associated with "drinking the cup" or receiving suffering. Therefore, we *live out our baptism* when we YIELD to suffering God offers!

It's not enough to AGREE with God (mentally) or SUBMIT to Him (verbally). Our agreement and our submission must be put to the test. This happens when we yield to suffering! Yielding to suffering is how we actually *enter* our baptism. It represents the FINAL stage of baptism!

Now, the Apostle Paul describes the SAME process, only he uses slightly different terms.

Romans 6:3, 6

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Paul is talking here about baptism. Moreover, he states that baptism begins with...

KNOWING

This is what it means to AGREE WITH GOD in your baptism. You “agree with God” when you KNOW that your old man IS crucified with Christ. Someone who does not “know” their death, will live in frustration! They will try to do what’s already been accomplished.

Galatians 2:20–21

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

For Paul baptism is also about...

RECKONING

Romans 6:11

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is what it means to SUBMITTING TO GOD in baptism. It means to RECKON yourself dead with Christ. Paul said, “reckon yourself to be dead INDEED”. The word “indeed” reinforces the idea that we’re dead. This is what it means to “reckon”. It means to reinforce to a truth. Not just know that it’s true, but treat it as if it is true CONCERNING YOU!

The man who “reckons” lives as if this truth in a reality in their life. They embrace and apply it in spite of how they might feel!

Romans 6:13

¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Notice, baptism is also about...

YEILDING

YIELDING OUR MEMBERS (ourselves) to God is how we “enter into” baptism. We enter into our baptism when we yield to God (in terms of obedience AND in terms of suffering)!

2 Corinthians 12:8–9

⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul, like Christ, prayed “Let this [thorn] depart from me!” However, his *weakness* was a kind of *baptism*. Paul lists 5 different weaknesses God brings upon people. Each of these ‘weakness’ FLUSHES OUT an area where the old man tries to hide.

1. **INFIRMITIES** (physical and mental weakness).
This flushes out SELF-RELIANCE or a desire to fix it or figure it out.
2. **REPROACHES** (insults).
This flushes out SELF-ESTEEM or a desire to protect our reputation with men.
3. **NECESSITIES** (lack of resources).
This flushes out SELF-SUFFICIENCY or a desire to provide for our own needs.
4. **PERSECUTION** (physical attacks).
This flushes out SELF-DEFENSE or a desire to protect ourself from attack.
5. **DISTRESSES** (feeling trapped).
This flushes out SELF-PRESERVATION or a desire to mitigate threats.

All these things are intended to do ONE THING—they are intended to put to death the old man. Again, the old man will try to hide, but baptism will FLUSH it out!

Our job is to simply be ready to “yield” to our baptism. We do this by...

- 1) **KNOWING** (your old man is crucified)
- 2) **RECKONING** (Living as though you are dead)

If you do this, then in the time of your baptism you won't *resist*. You'll *rest*!