

Acting out through baptism

I. Introduction

A. The revolution begins-

John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Mat 3:1

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Mat 3:13

Repent= to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins

B. The power to change the world is given at baptism-

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Mat 28:18

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Act 1:8

Disciple= one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another

Baptize= to purify or cleanse spiritually especially by a purging by experience or ordeal

Greek= baptizō, to dip in, to immerse, to bury

C. The spiritual baptism into the life of Jesus Christ-

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Rom 6:3

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

Baptism= baptizō, to dip in, to immerse, to bury

II. Jesus Christ living in us, is the hope of glory-

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. II Cor 5:17

Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:25

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Acting out= to behave badly or in a socially unacceptable often self-defeating manner especially as a means of venting painful emotions (such as fear or frustration)

Acting out as a Christian= to behave as Jesus would in our lives, our successes, our trials, failures and in our relationships with others.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Patrick Henry

A. The spiritual blessings of the life of Christ in us-

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ. Eph 1:3

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Jn 3:16

1. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is in us-

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Gal 5:22

If in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Rom 8:9

2. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are in us and act out thought us-

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. I Pet 4:10

The whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Eph 4:15

3. We are taught the truth of God through the Spirit of God-

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. Jn 16:13

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. Jn 14:23

C. The evidence of the Holy Spirit and the life of Jesus working in and through us-

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Ps 37:

It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Phil 2:13

We will have a growing love (agape love) for God.

We will have a growing love for others.

We will strive to obey God's commandments.

We will know we are going to heaven when we die.

We will have a desire to connect with God through reading the Bible and praying.

We will have a desire to serve God and others for His glory.

We will have a desire to tell others about God.

We will have a growing awareness of sin in our lives.

We will grow in maturity.

We will want to fulfill our purpose here on earth so that our lives will count for eternity.

III. The baptism into Jesus and into His life is an act of love-

A. God's demonstrated love for each of us-

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Rom 5:8

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. I Pet 2:24

God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Col 2:13

Propitiation: an expiatory sacrifice, to extinguish the guilt incurred

Repentance: to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past and present sins

C. Our demonstrated love for Jesus and for God-

Jesus answered, "The most important is, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. Mk 12:9

1. Our rational demonstrated love for God-

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:1

I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. I Jn 2:1

Rational= having reason or understanding

Propitiation: an expiatory sacrifice, to extinguish the guilt incurred

Repentance: to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past and present sins

2. Our demonstrated love for others-

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. I Jn 3:16

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. I Jn 4:19

D. The baptism of love for Jesus means death to our old life-

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Gal 2:2

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. I Cor 1:18