

2-6-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Two Baptisms

Purpose: Explain baptism and provoke people to be baptized in water and seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Truth for Today: Baptism in water and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are ways to experience God

Text: Acts 2:41, Mark 1:8

Topic: Baptism, Water Baptism, Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Series Title: The Big 10...the Path to Spiritual Maturity

Series Purpose: Provoke people to actively pursue spiritual maturity by applying the Big 10 causes for spiritual growth.

Two Baptisms

- I. Introduction (Ushers hand out Big 10 flyer)
 - A. [Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)]...we are to **grow up in every way**...into Christ] This speaks of a process called sanctification or spiritual maturity. Review series, The Big 10, The Path to Spiritual Maturity. It's about the power of daily disciplines and experiences proven to produce spiritual maturity.
 - B. Pic Big 10 Flyer: Last week we talked about the discipline of being committed and connected to a local church family: #2 Attend a weekend service (big church), #6 Connect with friends in a small group (little church) #5 Complete Equip and Foundation classes. (Dig deeper for truth).
 - C. Today we'll talk about 2 experiences: Picture #3, baptism in water and baptism in the Holy Spirit. 1st we'll discuss what the word baptize, or baptism means, and then talk about baptism in water and baptism in the HS. These experiences can be ignored or be life changing. It's up to us.
 - D. Title: Two Baptisms
 - E. Truth for Today: Baptism in water and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are ways to experience God.
- II. What does the word baptize, or baptism mean? It's more than getting wet.
 - A. The NT uses this word to describe many experiences, [Mark 1:4 (NIV)]...John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a **baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1:5 (NLT) ...when they confessed their sins, **he baptized them in the Jordan River.** Mark 1:8 (ESV) I have baptized you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.** Luke 12:50 (NLT) I have a terrible **baptism of suffering** ahead of me... 1 Cor. 12:13 (NLT)...**we have all been baptized into one body** by one Spirit...] Baptism is more than getting wet.
 - B. Baptism is a transliteration of the Gk. Word 'baptizo', i.e., there was no English equivalent, so a word was created from the Greek word. Def Baptize: To immerse, saturate, overwhelm, e.g., Pic dying clothes. We can be overwhelmed, immersed, or saturated² with repentance, suffering, the Holy Spirit or in water. To cause a religious experience, involving special manifestations of God's power and presence.¹
- III. What is baptism in water and why is it important?

A. In the NT, the early Christians were baptized in water shortly after they believed in Jesus. Water baptism doesn't save us but is a vital spiritual experience. Because baptism doesn't save us, many view it as unnecessary. When we do it's like tearing a page out of the Bible. It was different in NT: Pentecost, [Acts 2:41 (ESV) **those who received his word were baptized**, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.] Philippian jailer, [Acts 16:31–33 (ESV)]...“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”...33 And...**he was baptized at once**, he and all his family.] Philip and the Ethiopian official, [Acts 8:36 (NLT)]... “Look! **There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?**”]

B. 3 purposes of Water Baptism

1. #1 Water baptism is a public declaration of faith in Christ. It says I am a Christian. People clap at COTR, but **Pic** Muslims can face death for their faith.
2. #2 Water baptism is an identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ that can break sin's power over us. [Ro. 6:2–8 (ESV) Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who **died to sin** still live in it?] Death means separation. Death to sin is separation from sin's power, not the extinction of sin. Being dead to sin means being “set free from sin”³
3. **Vs. 3** Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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**. 5 For if we have been **united with him** in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that **our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.**
 - a. There is a spiritual action in water baptism whereby we bury our old man/ flesh in a watery grave and rise to a new life. Describe symbolism. Water baptism is more than a symbol but an anchor for faith in our struggle with sin.
4. #3 Christians are baptized in water in obedience to God's commands. Jesus was baptized, His followers were baptized. Why wouldn't I?

C. Text ‘COTR baptism’ to 97000 to be baptized or call the office.

D. I was baptized in the Bering Sea in Alaska, and rebaptized in a swimming pool.

IV. **What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

A. John the Baptist, [Mark 1:8 (ESV) I have **baptized you with water**, but **he (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**”] This was initially fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost but many believers in the Book of Acts had the same experience.

B. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a spiritual experience with the Holy Spirit after salvation that empowers the believer to witness for Christ. [Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...**] This experience is conducive to using spiritual gifts and experiencing communication from the Spirit like dreams and visions.

1. To be ‘baptized in/with/by the Spirit means to be immersed, saturated, overwhelmed, or filled, e.g., dying clothes, changed. The NT uses many words to

describe this experience. Pentecost, [Acts 2:4 (ESV) they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**...] Cornelius, [Acts 10:44 (ESV)...**the Holy Spirit fell** on all who heard the word.] Believers in Ephesus, [Acts 19:6 (ESV) when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**,] Peter and the last days, [Acts 2:18 (NLT)...I will **pour out my Spirit**...and they will prophesy.]

C. In the NT, there was a 2nd experience with the Holy Spirit after salvation.

1. Philip in Samaria, [Acts 8:14–17 (ESV) Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **received the word of God**, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet **fallen** on any of them, but they had only been **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. 17 Then **they laid their hands on them** and they received the Holy Spirit.]
2. Acts 19:1–7 (ESV)...Paul...came to Ephesus. There he found some **disciples**. 2 And he said to them, “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “**John baptized with the baptism of repentance**, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. 6 And when **Paul had laid his hands** on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.] If it happened then, why not now?
 - a. Usually in Acts there was a spiritual manifestation when people were baptized in the HS, the Gk. Word ‘glossolalia’ is translated speaking in tongues and means a supernatural ability to pray and sing in an unlearned language. // Tower Babel. Prophecy isn’t just predictive but [1 Cor. 14:3 (NLT) But one who prophesies **strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them**.]
 - b. This may scare us today, e.g., me in Adak, AG. Bad experiences/ bad theology prevent people from experiencing the fulness of the HS. Speaking in an unlearned language isn’t the goal. The goal is power to witness.
 - c. If your experience with God is deepened at COTR, it’s because we seek to welcome the activity of the Holy Spirit.

D. How do I experience the Holy Spirit at a deeper level?

1. Ask the Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. [Luke 11:13 (ESV) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”]
2. Ask Spirit-filled believers to pray and lay their hands on you, In Samaria, [Acts 8:17 (NLT) Then **Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit**.]
3. Being filled with the HS isn’t a 1-time experience, it’s a lifestyle of daily yielding to the Spirit’s control. [Ephesians 5:18 (NCV) Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but **be filled with the Spirit**.] Wine changes you, it transforms you; The HS changes and transforms us. Our part is to yield to Him daily.

4. Lifeway Research: In 1900, less than 1 million people around the world identified as Pentecostal or charismatic. By 2050, that number will top 1 billion.

V. Conclusion

- A. Testimony Regina Flannery
- B. If you're interested in knowing more about the HS, (1) Read the Book of Acts with an open mind and hungry heart, (2) Attend the Class "Filled", i.e., the Spirit filled life, Sunday @ 9am, (3) Let someone on our prayer team lay their hands on you and pray for you to be baptized in the HS to have power to witness for Christ.

VI. Response

- A. Altar
- B. Prayer: I want to do what believers in the NT did and experience what they did.
- C. Souls

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Swanson, J. (1997). [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)*](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.
2. Zodhiates, S. (2000). [*The complete word study dictionary: New Testament*](#) (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.
3. Witmer, J. A. (1985). [*Romans*](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 461). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.