

83 August 20, 2022 – Rebaptism in Water

Most of us who came to know the Lord Jesus the Christ when we were born again and gave our lives to Him who died on the cross a sinless man for our sins past, present, and future are subsequently baptized in water. The beliefs or theologies of churches or religions vary greatly on water baptism from no water baptism whatsoever to sprinkling with water to full immersion in water. The outward demonstration of water baptism is an act of obedience and commitment that we are willing to place our trust in Jesus and to follow Him who gives us our own free-will under His Will for our life. It is a sign for us and to others that we have repented of our past sins and from that day forward will also repent of current and future sins. That is a sacred act and not to be just another religious demonstration. There is only one source that explains water baptism and that is the Word of God, the Bible inspired of God, not of man, where Jesus himself was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. In fact he was baptized by full immersion in a river of flowing water.

The act of water baptism for Jesus is explained in Mathew 3:11 where John the Baptist says, *“As for me , I baptize you with water for **repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and fire”*. Further in Matthew 3:13-17 the discourse continues *“Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, I have need to be baptized by You, and do you come to me? But Jesus answering said to him, Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he permitted Him. And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending as a dove, and coming upon Him., and behold, a voice out of the heavens saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”*. Now is there any further proof needed that water baptism is the way of cleansing of sins in a step of a Believers path to serving Jesus in a Christian commitment to following His example and steps of faith and truth? I personally was **Baptized** by full immersion in water in 1976 in a Free Will Baptist Church after my profession of faith to serve and follow Jesus. Was I **Baptized** with the **Holy Spirit**? The Scriptures indicates yes but without further anointing the power of the **Holy Spirit** had to be released and activated. Many Churches and religions do not place emphasis on the need for or the power of the **Holy Spirit**.

But next understand that there is another **Baptism** not by water but by fire. There is an interpretation that once saved always saved which has questions to validity. Does **Baptism** by water also include **Baptism** by fire or of the indwelling of the **Holy Spirit**? But once again return to the Scriptures of the Word of God. Jesus was **Baptized** by water at the beginning of His ministry as noted in the foregoing. The **Baptism** of the **Holy Spirit** by fire came to the disciples after Jesus died on the cross and sat on the throne at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Acts 2:33 says *“Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the **promise** of the **Holy Spirit**, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear”*. Notice the **promise** versus **receipt** of the **Holy Spirit**. Acts 2:38 indicates *“And Peter said to them, **Repent**, and let each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. **Repentance** would indicate a criteria for operating in the fulness of the **Holy Spirit**, being equipped with the gifts or primary and secondary gifts of the **Holy Spirit**. It is obvious that we may be anointed during **Baptism** with the **Holy Spirit**, but have we received an appointment from the **Holy Spirit** to exercise our gifts to spread the Word of God, as the Bible says the harvest of new souls is plentiful, but the workers are few. If the workers are few what is the restraint on the **Holy Spirit**? The restraint of the **Holy Spirit** must necessarily come from Christians themselves.*

So there is a likely disconnect with being **anointed** with the **Holy Spirit** and using our gifts of the **Spirit** even if we might or might not know what those gifts are in order to serve within the Kingdom of God in this world, that we live in. The answer seems to be **Repentance**. The Bible teaches that once we are saved and dedicate our life to serving Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins past, present, and future. This can open the door to knowing that we have sinned or hopefully only inadvertently sinning. James 4:17 says *"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin"*. God does not sit on the throne and say Hah I caught you sinning, and you said you would not sin. The **Holy Spirit** accuses us if He is activated within our fleshly body which is the **Temple** of the **Holy Spirit**. True **Repentance** is not only sorrow for sins and humble penitence and contrition before God, but it involves the necessity of turning away from sin, a discontinuance of all evil practices and deeds, a thorough reformation of life, a vital change from evil to good, from vice to virtue, from darkness to light. Okay if we were originally **Baptized** in water for **Repentance** of sins how do we get out of this fix we are in with sin riding herd over us. One answer is through prayer and supplication asking forgiveness for these sins. But we were already forgiven for sins of the future, but only if we recognize our sin, repent and re-align our life with God and His purpose. Our atonement is freely there, but we must ask for forgiveness in order to be forgiven. Now our **Soul** made up of the mind, will, and emotions through our conscious must seek to obtain forgiveness of or own our committed sins. Where is the **Heart** in all of this process as the mind and heart have to be in one accord to maintain a joy in our conscious. Some say the **Holy Spirit** lives in the **Heart** while others say He lives in the deepest part of our body, the gut, which is the center of our immune system. Setting this issue aside consider that He makes all things possible in our life through our Body, Soul, and Spirit. An outward sign of **Repentance** is **Baptism** in water.

Evangelical churches such as the Pentecostal theologies conduct **Baptism** and **Rebaptism** services at periodic intervals encouraging the congregation of **Believers** to be immersed in water **Baptism** and to genuinely seek **Repentance**. A repeat **Baptism** program is similar to a Christian **Believer** seeking through prayer for God to increase their faith, belief, and righteousness as we know there is no arrival in our walk or climbing the stairs to arrive at the perfect place with God except in **Heaven**. In the meantime we are all Christians growing in our faith and righteousness as we gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom as to the Word of God. Matthew 6:33 says *"Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you"*. The church I attend is once again offering **Baptism** and **Rebaptism** after worship services on August 23, 2022. I personally was **Rebaptized** in 2021 and again in early 2022 when I committed to God a reassignment for myself in His ministry. There are always breakthroughs that we seek and a desire to dive deeper into our hearts and minds to seek greater purposes to serve Him. Water clears the heart and mind to get into the deeper and secret places where the Holy Spirit dwells. In these places we can lose ourselves and take refuge to pull on restored strength in serving Him. Renewed strength and purpose opens doors for more opportunities to serve God in higher places. We can be buried and resurrected anew with **Rebaptism** with healing and freedom from those things of the world that bind us. Deliverance into higher levels of service from bondage should be the goal of every Christian with water **Baptism** a personal experience of **Repentance**.