

THE BAPTISM of JESUS CHRIST

PURPOSE OF THIS DISCUSSION

" ...whoever hears these sayings of Mine (Jesus Christ), and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell. And great was its fall. "

Matthew 7: 24- 27

Here is an opportunity to examine the foundation of your home (your life and home life) in light of God's words. If the foundations and the house of your life have built according to a world view (values and norms) which do not conform to the Master's world view (His values and norms, plans and specifications) - tear down the illegal or wrong edifice, and re-build! If your foundations are right, and the house conforms, you may wish to do some renovations, walk with understanding to glory!

OVERVIEW - The Jesus Christ Cross of Calvary

Our understanding about what happened at the Cross of Calvary is crucial to our understanding of salvation and the importance of The Baptism of Jesus Christ.

The Calvary Cross, on which Jesus Christ died about A.D. 33, is the place of the greatest battle ever recorded in human history. Spiritual forces of good and evil zeroed-in on that Cross. So great was the battle that the world was plunged into darkness from noon to 3pm - the brilliant Mediterranean sun suddenly went out. God the Father turned His eyes away from the Passover scene. The earth convulsed with an earthquake.

All the sins and sicknesses of the world, past, present and future were borne by Jesus Christ on The Cross.
Satan was defeated by the blood of the Lamb.

It was on the Cross that Jesus Christ (The Passover Lamb) uttered the words "It is finished" **John 19:30**. He fulfilled all that the Temple system represented and accomplished all that was necessary for the salvation of mankind -Jews, Israelites, and gentiles alike - victory over death, sickness, demonic bondages, the self, and made it possible for man to be brought back to God (an act of atonement). Three days later, Jesus Christ rose from the dead and returned to Jerusalem to his disciples and family members to prove that He indeed held the keys to life on this earth and eternal life. On the fiftieth Day after the Passover, on the Day of Pentecost (festival for the Harvest of Wheat), The glorified Jesus Christ left this world. God then poured The Holy Spirit onto the disciples **Acts Chapter 2**.

The Baptism in Jesus Christ is an outward sign of the death and rising to a new life for the followers of Jesus Christ, allowing Him to reside in each Christian's body by His Spirit. Thus, a Christian follows His leading on the road to eternal life. In fact, the word *Christian, refers to a believer who has the resurrected Christ living in their physical body (literally "Christ-in"), so that He reigns as The Lord within (*see Footnote bottom page 2).

The Crossroad

Mankind must decide either to accept the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the entry of The Holy Spirit, or to reject these events as a hoax. The Cross of Jesus Christ is the crossroads for decision-making: to believe or not believe in Jesus Christ; to accept Jesus Christ as the Lord or to stay with Satan; to live in submission to Jesus or submission to Satan; to live a life of obedience to Him or in rebellion against Him; to die to self or to build-up self; to be self-effacing or egotistical; to live in The Light or stay living in darkness; to accept the truth or continue to live in lies.

Historical facts about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and coming of the Holy Spirit are simple and defy logical rejection.

The problem of accepting the truth about Jesus Christ lies in four major dynamic influences: the influence of God; Satan; sin; and self. Satan (the name means "adversary" to God) wants us end-up in hell so that we live our lives in this world without the experiential knowledge of God and of heaven, now. All must confront the four influences sooner or later.

Adam and Eve were created by God in God's own image in the Garden of Eden. Satan cleverly destroyed the relationship by causing them to sin. Sin separates us from God. They were banished from the Garden into the world. **Genesis Chapter 3**. God chose the Israelites to be His own people. Satan established pagan religions and "gods" (God Almighty calls them demons) for people to worship himself. The 3,000 years or so of Israelite history recorded in the Old Testament, reveals that they failed to worship God by keeping His commandments - to obey Him **Deuteronomy Chapter 6**. Israel chose to worship Satan. God or YHWH, kept His side of the covenant to love His own people, but His own failed miserably keep their covenant to obey His commandments. **Jeremiah 32: 31- 34**. The major lesson of Israel's history is that man without the help of Jesus Christ cannot honour and obey God.

God then sent His son Jesus Christ into this world, (remembered in the Western World by pivoting world history at B.C. 0 and A.D, and at Christmas time). At around 33 B.C, Jesus Christ died on a Cross and rose from the dead three days later, as Saviour of mankind **John 3:16**, for the Israelites, including the Jews, and all of mankind. All we have to do is to appropriate or accept the gift of Salvation in its entirety. The battle for our souls was won at the Cross, almost 2,000 years ago. It is now over! We must submit to our Creator and Redeemer.

What must I do to be saved?

I must repent. I surrender my life to God's sovereignty. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. I acknowledge that I cannot get into heaven by my own strength. My sins prevent entry into Heaven. The shed blood of Jesus Christ nullifies the effects of sin and sins. The Blood of Jesus Christ washes clean all my unrighteousness in confessed repentance **1 John 1:7-9**. I am made righteous. Jesus Christ becomes THE LORD in complete control of my life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as surgical instruments are sterilised before use, so I must undergo the sterilization of water and the Blood of the Lamb to get into heaven. I can take a shower or bath to cleanse my body - but what can I take to rid myself of a guilty conscience and the stain of sin? Nothing but water

FOOTNOTE: The original Jewish "followers" of Jesus Christ ("Come Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men") were originally indistinguishable from main stream Judaism and were thought to be a Jewish sect. They were known variously as "Galileans" - from Galilee, "Nazarenes"- from Nazareth, followers of "The Way" (Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth and The Life" **John 14: 6**) The term "Christian" was first used at Antioch **Acts 11: 26**.

and the blood of Jesus Christ. **1 John 5: 6; Isaiah 1:18**

I must be born again. The act of water baptism in Jesus Christ is the first outward step of repentance on the road of salvation. **John Chapter 3.** It is an on-going walk of humbleness and destruction of self in the power of the Holy Spirit so that Jesus Christ can manifest His glory in me as His disciple.

Baptism involves participation or identification in the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross (by total immersion in water) **Romans 6:4**, an in-filling by the Holy Spirit (the total infilling of the Holy Spirit - the presence of a resurrected Jesus Christ **Acts 2: 38**) so that I become the eyes, ears, hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. I follow Him in a walk of holiness through this world. It is entering into a narrow door and a very difficult narrow road. **Matthew 7: 13 -14.**

The Baptism in Jesus Christ is one - but like the Triune Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), there are "three-in-one" baptisms, namely: Baptism in Water by submersion in water for repentance, Baptism in The Holy Spirit for submission, Baptism in Fire for holiness. I accept all three or nothing!

Key bible verse: Matthew 3:11

The importance of Holy Scripture as the standard for truth

Holy Scripture must be our sole basis for deciding what is right and wrong for spiritual things. The Holy Bible is the template for life, the only standard of measure. The Holy Bible contains God's thought patterns which we need to copy. Please look-up all scriptures quoted and read them in context of the preceding and following paragraphs in your Bible. Listen only to, and obey only God's pure words, not the words of men (not these words either - if the thought patterns of this discussion line-up with God's words then you will need to ask the Lord Jesus Christ what you should do!). We are commanded to live by every word which comes out of the mouth of God **Matthew 4: 4.** "*Test all things!*" **1 Thessalonians 5: 21.** Weigh and consider everything, carefully. The Bereans did this to Paul **Acts 17:11** - we are expected by God Almighty to do the same!

" *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof (rebuking error), for correction (correcting faults), for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*". **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

"no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit " **2 Peter 1: 20-21**

The dedicated hard work of Ivan Panin (1855 -1942), a Russian mathematician revealed the mathematical precision and mathematical complexity of God's Holy Word. Ivan Panin proved that every word in the original Hebrew and *Koine* Greek language is literally God inspired, and, every word is in the correct position and order, and is literally the spoken word of the Almighty God recorded by his holy servants. His word has been translated for us to read and use as The guide to eternal life through Jesus Christ (see Bibliography).

Furthermore, in 1994, three Jewish mathematicians, Doron Witzum, Eliyahu Rips, and Yoav Rosenburg, published a paper entitled " Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Book of Genesis" published in "Statistical Sciences", August 1994, Vol.9, No.3, pp429-438. They proved the existence of The Bible Code. This research, made public in "The Bible Code" (1997) by Michael Drosnin, revealed that God's Holy Word written about 3,000 years ago,

contains, in its simplicity, amazing recorded future-history which is unfolding today, a discovery made possible by super computers. Many treasures of foretold events remain to be discovered in the Bible.

The proof presented by the mathematicians Panin, and Witzum, Rips and Rosenberg is irrefutable, and can be checked.

You are invited to prayerfully consider the contents of this discussion. Ask our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, what you should do. We are commanded to

" *work out your own salvation in fear and trembling* " **Philippians 2:12b**

" *Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God* " **Matthew 4:4** This word is said in context of Jesus Christ's temptation in the wilderness by Satan and is Jesus' reply to Satan's words. Failure to live by every word of God amounts to listening to Satan (see Mark 8:33).

" *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet And a light to my path* " **Psalms 119: 105**

" *Your word have I hidden in my heart. That I might not sin against You.
Blessed are you oh Lord! Teach me your statutes.
I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate your ways.
I will delight myself in Your statutes;
I will not forget your word* " **Psalms 119: 11-12, 15-16**

ONE BAPTISM IN JESUS CHRIST - THE THREE BAPTISMS

(3-in-1) In water, In The Holy Spirit, In fire

The first two, Baptism in Water and Baptism in the Holy Spirit, usually occur together, and usually with water Baptism first. The third Baptism in Fire occurs as a life long walk in the fire of affliction and persecution for the word's sake and for Jesus Christ's sake.

God is a Triune God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit 1 John 5:7). Similarly, there are three Baptisms in the One Baptism of Jesus Christ.

It is helpful to think of the three baptisms in Jesus Christ as being part of the same continuum - beginning with the death of self (Water baptism in Jesus Christ - participation in His death), rising to newness of life and being in total control in the Holy Spirit , and, lastly in a continuing walk in the refining Fire of persecution because of active opposition to sin, the world and to Satan.

MATTHEW 3:2, 11 The baptism of John The Baptist. John was miraculously conceived in The Holy Spirit to the elderly Zacharias & Elizabeth (Elizabeth was well past child bearing age). He was a cousin of Jesus Christ. He lived in the wilderness then was the instrument of God and at God's bidding, went into Judea

*".....to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord"* **Luke 1:17**

John the Baptist proclaimed in Matthew Chapter 3:

" *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!* " v2
 Therefore *bear fruits worthy of repentance*, v3.
and *do not think to say to yourselves* v9
 ' *we have Abraham as our father* ' for
 I say to you that God is able raise up children to Abraham from these
 stones.
 And even now *the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree* v10
which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

" I indeed *baptise you with* [Greek - preposition en 'εν' -can be translated as " with" or " in"] *water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry, He will baptise you with (or "in") the Holy spirit and fire.*"
Matthew 3:11

NOTE: The Greek preposition " εν " may be translated as " with" or "in". In this discussion the preference is to use "in" as this accurately reflects the meanings of the baptism in Jesus Christ.

1. *Baptism In Water - as an outward sign of a broken spirit and a broken heart (repentance)*

" *a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart* " **Psalm 51: 17**

This quotation is taken from King David's Psalm describing his repentance from his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. Whilst David was forgiven by God, he lived to see the tragic outworking of the results of his sins within his own family. The New Testament equivalent is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. **Luke 15: 11 - 32.**

True repentance involves a mind set change to participate in the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross - dying to self, dying to the world, and carrying the dying Christ within us on an on-going walk. The hallmark of repentance is a continuing brokenness of self.

The most famous passage on repentance and baptism is found in Acts 2: 38

" *Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptised 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* "

Analysis of this passage

1. The main verb is "repent" or in Greek *metanoesate*. It is in the aorist direct imperative tense, that is, it is act which occurs in a point of time in history as a result obeying the command to repent. The root verb for repent is *metanoeo*. This refers that initial repentance of the sinner unto salvation. **The word Repentance** means "to change one's mind" which results in a "change of direction". It also involves " a change of heart " - a question of who you "love". In this passage the verb translated " *be baptised* "

2. "be baptised" is in the indirect passive imperative of *baptizo* which does not give it the same direct command implied in "repent". The passive tense indicates that the individual does not baptise himself, but is baptised by another usually in the presence of others. Thus, Jesus Christ is baptised by John the Baptist. *Baptizo* which means "to dip, immerse, sink", "to overwhelm" G. Abbot-Smith Greek Lexicon of the New Testament p.74. Baptism is based on a Jewish custom. John The Baptist proclaimed the need for Israelites of his day to be baptised in context of Repentance. "*Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*" Matthew 3:2, and links repentance with baptism in water "*I baptise you in water for repentance*" **Matthew 3: 11**. He also added that "*He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry, He will baptize you with (in) the Holy Spirit and fire.*" **Matthew 3: 11b**. Jesus Christ repeated the same message of repentance. **Matthew 4:17** Later, The Holy Spirit repeated this message of repentance through Peter, and 3,000 men believed, were baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. **Acts Chapter 2, especially 2:38**.
3. "for the remission of sins" . The preposition "for" in Greek is *eis*, which is translated as "unto" or "into". It is the same preposition found in 1 Corinthians 10:2 in the phrase "*and were baptised unto Moses*". These people were baptised or spiritually identifying themselves with the purposes and vision of Moses. Repentance therefore is presented as identifying an individual with the remission of his sins, even as baptism following repentance provides an external identification visible by others.
4. Repentance is something that concerns an individual and God, while baptism involves others. Repentance also take place within a man's heart as the Holy Spirit energises the sinner.
This analysis is based on notes by Spiros Zodiates on Actsa 2:38 p 1321 (see Bibliography)

Note:

In the Old Testament repentance involved an active turning away from sinful acts, the main one being idolatry (serving Satan or demons). In its widest application sin was, and still is, disobeying God's specific commandments. The "Law of Moses" (actually, God's Laws recorded by Moses) defines sin in terms of a set of rules - that is, gives flesh to the concept of sin. *In the New Testament* sin is defined in context of a loving God who forgives sinners by Grace. Gone is the harshness of the Old Testament legalism and rituals - adhering to a set of rules and regulations (613 Laws of which the 10 Commandments formed the first 10).

In the New Will (New Testament) the emphasis is on a loving God who loves unconditionally and who forgives by Grace, not Law. **Ephesians 2:8-9**. Hence the summary of the 10 commandments is to Love. **Matthew 22: 34- 40**. The first set of 4 commandments about loving God are summarised as to "*Love the Lord your God with all your mind heart soul and mind and strength*" **Mark 12:30**. The Second set of 6 laws govern horizontal relationships with our neighbours and is defined as "*Loving you neighbour as yourself*". God's Love is translation of the Greek word *Agape* which means a pure, unselfish giving love which comes from God, not man (God's *Agape* love should be distinguished from other Greeks words for human love such "*Eros*" or "sexual love" , or *Phileo* or "neighbourly" or "brotherly love"). Thus "*loving your neighbour as yourself*" makes sense - if you die to yourself with God's sacrificial *agape* (love) in the same way that God our Father offered Jesus Christ to die for our sins , then you will be able to *agape* yourself for your neighbour. If you cannot *agape* yourself first, then you cannot possibly *agape* your neighbour, let alone *agape* God (offer yourself to God). *Agape* thus fulfills the Law. Sin, ever present within

and without us, can be overcome by a life which accepts *agape* (epitomised by the life of Jesus Christ) who was and is " full of Grace and truth ". In the last analysis God is *agape*

" *He who does not agape does not know God, for God is agape* " **1 John 4: 8**

Grace is the acceptance that all that needs to be done for our salvation has been done. Trying to keep laws, or rules and regulations, serves only to remind us that we will always break laws, reminding us of our sinful nature. Jesus forgives.

In what I consider are the most beautiful verses in The Holy Bible, the presence of Jesus is described as follows:

" And the word [logos] became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth ",.....

" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. " **John 1: 14, 16.**

Repentance - the Key to following after Jesus Christ

True repentance is the end result of a desperate desire to have inner peace and a release of intense inner turmoil, resulting in a tremendous relief and flood of peace and inner contentment and intense joy - in knowing the resurrected Jesus Christ and having Him grant to us forgiveness. Repentance may be likened to a drowning man, who in his desperation, and utter helplessness, cries out for help and is saved by a life-guard, Jesus Christ! Repentance is realizing that you cannot control yourself - your anger, your secret lustful desires, your sinful urges, your mouth, your body - all of which drive you to do things you do not want to do or say. A guilty conscience haunts you to the point of desperation!

Repentance involves a change of mind as much as it involves a change of heart.

Romans chapter 7 Read Romans chapters 1-8

Repentance - a gift of God

We are saved by Grace not by works. The gift of Grace from God is something we accept or reject since we have done nothing to earn the gift.

" For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them " **Ephesians 2: 8- 10**

The act of repentance emanates from the Holy Spirit in the life of a repentant sinner. The Holy Spirit records for us in Acts that He is the originator of a repentant heart, not the will of man. **Acts 2:39b** and throughout the book of Acts. Salvation is a result of the action of God, not by the will of man.

Church inspired information emphasises the primary action of man (from a Biblical perspective the "will of Flesh") as a copy-cat ritual. A truly repentant " broken and broken

and contrite spirit " only knows to *agape* (the highest form of love in the Greek language of the Bible which emanates from God) our Lord Jesus Christ - rules are only guidelines in the walk in holiness, not the end-all-and-be-all of life. Hence the rule of Grace, not Law in Christ.

Man-made laws, rules and regulations serve only to frustrate the full measure of Grace poured out onto a believer. The Ten Commandments serve only to reveal what sin is and how impossible it is to keep them ! **Romans 3:20b** Slavish adherence to a set of rules and regulation like the Jews with their 613 laws results ultimately in a rejection of the person of Jesus Christ (the Jews cried out " *Let His blood be upon us and on our children* " **Matthew 27: 25** thus pronouncing a curse of God upon themselves). Similarly, so-called Christian Churches produce their own legalism or set of rules and regulations for their converts!

Laws exist to define sin. Laws drive us to repentance - knowing that we cannot keep the laws - we are always found to be "short" - unable to keep them. Our own righteousness cannot save us. It is only with the Lamb of God over us who makes us righteous in God's eyes. Thus we are driven even more to trust the work of the Cross - Jesus Christ, Saviour.
Romans 6: 23

Some examples of repentance - " bearing fruit worthy of repentance "

What happens when a person is repentant and is baptised? What external evidence is there for all to see?

" therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not say to yourselves , 'We have Abraham as our father'. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." So the people asked him, saying, what shall we do then? He answered and said to them, He who has two tunics , let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise. Then the tax collectors also came to be baptised, and said to him, Teacher, what shall we do? And He said to them " Collect no more than what is appointed for you." Likewise, the soldiers asked Him saying, " And what shall we do?" So he said to them, " Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."
Luke 3: 8 – 18

A repentant person

- Experiences - the axe - chopping of all roots anchoring and binding us to the world **Matthew 3: 10, Luke 3: 9** ; the winnowing fan and gathering of wheat and purging the chaff **Matthew 3: 12. Luke 3: 17**
- Follows Jesus Christ immediately and leave the world behind - even a cursory reading of the 4 accounts of the Gospel message in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, easily reveals the importance of obeying immediately the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is especially noticeable in Mark.
- Let the dead bury the dead **Matthew 8: 22** A man's most sacred duty is to bury his own father! No social obligation must keep us from living in The Light, from obeying Jesus Christ's words. Those who do not believe in Jesus The Christ are spiritually dead and living in spiritual darkness.
- Give away 50% of what you own - the two tunic principle (give one away) **Luke 3:11.** Givers and Takers - which category of people do you fall into?
- Tax collector's principle - only take what you are entitled to take. **Luke 3: 13** Zachaeus the chief tax collector gave half of his wealth to the poor, and paid back any illicit money four times over! **Luke 19: 1-10, v8.**
- The soldier principle - for those in position of power, "*do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages*" **Luke 3: 14**

READ: **Matthew 13: 44, 46.** The Parable of the hidden treasure and The Pearl of Great Price. Sell all "to buy" eternal life (not that eternal life can be bought! The purpose of the illustration is to show the intentions and desires of the single-minded heart). The joy of heaven in a believer's heart is to give all to Jesus Christ joyfully!

John 8: 3- 12. A woman caught in the act of adultery. The wrath of Judiasm fell upon her revealing both the hearts of the men and of this woman. A grateful heart forgiven of sins just loves the One who forgives (Jesus Christ) unreservedly! Nothing is too much! A grateful heart is tremendously happy - it only knows to give, it does not take. A heart response is not a calculated response. It reveals the huge gap between God's culture and man's culture (the man went unpunished! - Satanic culture revealed in a full frontal ! **James 3: 13- 18, especially v.15)**

2 Samuel Chapters 11- 18 King David who committed adultery with Bathsheba, then murdered her husband by sending him to his death at the front line of battle, only to be slam-dunked by the prophet Nathan. King David repented, penning the beautiful Psalm 51, but had to pay a deadly price for his sins.

Sin in haste- repent at leisure

Luke 15: 11- 32 The Prodigal Son and his eldest brother. A village setting where the Father was disgraced but still agaped and looked everyday for his son's return. The Repentant son demonstrates a change of mind and of heart compared to the religious brother who for all intents and purposes seemed to be righteous but was shown-up to be anything but righteous in God's eyes.

Two examples of doing the wrong thing and having to pay the ultimate price for rejecting the blessings of God - death

Matthew 27: 3- 10 Judas repented of his part in betraying Jesus Christ. The word translated here as repent is different from *Metanoien*, which means a decision to change one's mind and a change in direction as espoused by John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and, illustrated by the Prodigal son. Here the Greek word is "**metamelien**" which should be translated as an emotion of remorse or anguish. Judas had made a decision to betray Jesus Christ, and when he realized what he had done, it was too late to undo the deed, so he went and hanged himself.

Hebrews 12: 16- 17 Esau sold his birthright and the blessings of God for one trivial morsel of meat. He "*found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears*" In Genesis 25: 34 we find out that Esau "*despised his birthright*" . In other words he despised all the blessings and promises of God which went with the birthright. No amount of crying out loud, shedding bitter tears ,regretting, or pleading could bring the birthright back to him. How many times do we hear of actions such as Esau's - '*For a few moments of sensual pleasure or carnal indulgence, so something as cheap as a cigarette, or a glass of beer or whiskey - they despise all the blessings and promises of God. Later they feel their mistake, and when they begin to long after and cry out for those spiritual and eternal blessings which they had despised, to their dismay they find themselves rejected. Why? Because they can find no place of repentance, no way to change their minds.*' Derek Prince p12-13, pp7-17

Acknowledgement of Sin and Sins

- Jesus Christ & Sin

Jesus Christ is likened to the "new Adam" who counters the effects of sin which entered into the human species through the sin of the first Adam.

" . *Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. "*

1 Corinthians 15: 20 -22

Repentant Christians who remain repentant and similarly break the Adamic curse of sin, in the name of Jesus Christ !

" *The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam (Jesus Christ) became a life-giving spirit. However the spiritual is not first but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. "*

1 Corinthians 15:45 (see also Romans 5: 12-21)

" *Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him** (Jesus Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. "*

Romans 6: 6- 7

Comment: Religion involves preservation of self and "self-control techniques" to control human impulses. Religion is man's way to God, or more accurately, Satan's substitute for Christ Jesus. Christianity involves following a resurrected and therefore living Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God's answer to man's need. Christianity involves a dying to self, following the example of a crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ. It involves a repentant sinner.

- **Jesus Christ & Sins**

" *The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it? I the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. "*

Jeremiah 17: 9: 10

" *There is none righteous, no not one "*

Romans 3: 10

" *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."*

Romans 3: 20

" *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus "*

Romans 3: 23 - 24

The recognition that we have sinned before God and men is repentance - a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. All of our sins have been cleaned by the shed blood of Jesus Christ provided we have repented of them before God and men. Jesus Christ re-established our vertical relationship with the Triune Godhead as well as the horizontal one with those of whom we have sinned against, by confessing our sins and doing things which show that we really have repented **1 John 1:7-9.**

Dying to self and participation in the death of Christ Jesus on the Cross

" *...do you not know that many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life"*

Romans 6:3-4

" *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

*He who loves his life will lose it, and
he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and
where I am, there My servant will be also.
If anyone serves Me, him my Father will honour. "*

John 12: 24 - 26

Baptism involves participation in the violent, cruel, sadistic, horrible, public death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Total submersion in water represents the death of self. The rising up out of the water is to receive the Baptism in The Holy Spirit for empowering and a continuation of the humbling and destruction of the self so that the image and person of Jesus Christ may be magnified in the baptised person's life. The walk in following Jesus Christ's walk through life is The Baptism in Fire, one of continual cleansing for Holiness - through the affliction of persecution. It is not an optional extra but an integral and important part of Christian living. The order described above usually the norm, but God is unconstrained. He moves as He wills - by His Spirit.

For those who have been baptised in a church ritual (this is seen as being "grafted into the church, the * living body of Christ" [op.cit. Buchanan (1978) p.3 - this claim that the church is the "living body of Christ" is highly debatable since the Body of Christ has nothing to do with Church structures], it may mean re-consideration of the baptism just as the Ephesian believers (about 12 of them) did who had been baptised in John's baptism for repentance, but did not know about the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus. They opted for re-baptism. **Acts 19: 1-7.**

Result - I no longer live, but Jesus Christ lives in me

" *I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ 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. "*

Galatians 2:20

" *I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my LORD
for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and
be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through
faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His
resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means, I may
attain to the resurrection from the dead "*

Philippians 3:8 - 10

" *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud,
all passed through the sea, all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,..."*

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

" *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,
For as many as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. vs 27
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor
female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's
seed, and heirs according to the promise. "* **Galatians 3: 26 - 29.**

" *If anyone loves [agape] Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love {agape} him, and
We will come to him and make Our home with him "* **John 14: 23**

Jesus Christ was baptised by John unto repentance, even though He had no sin - He did it
" *to fulfill all righteousness "* **Matthew 3: 15**

Jesus Christ repeated this message of repentance in His ministry **Matthew 4:17.**

Crucified Christ - crucified Flesh

Just as Jesus Christ died in the flesh, so a true Christian crucifies the flesh in him.

" *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* " **Galatians 5: 24**

Religious practices may involve participation in flagellation, self-mutilation, and participating in religious abstinence at appointed times. Christianity involves our participation in the crucifixion of the flesh and self in the act of the baptism in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ - the Passover Lamb and Righteousness

" *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world* " **John 1:29**

The last of the ten plagues was the commandments relating to the angel of death and the sacrifice of the Passover lamb - eating the body and smearing the blood over the door lintel and sides. **Exodus Chapter 12.** John the Baptist identified Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God

" *If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness* " **1 John 1:9**

The Blood of Jesus Christ takes the "un " out of the word (un) righteousness, leaving us righteous !

Baptism is the Christian Exodus.from this world into Heaven The Israelites were expelled into the wilderness from **Egypt** by the hand of God, and led by the **Cloud**, then entered **The Promised Land**, In The Baptism in Jesus Christ, Christians participate in the death of Jesus Christ and thus leave **The World** (Egypt), are Baptised in the Holy Spirit signifying that they are being **led by the Holy Spirit** (The Cloud) , **and the Kingdom of Heaven enters into their body, soul, and spirit** (The Promised Land)

As the angel of death passed over Egypt, so Death passed over the believing Israelites and they set-off for the Promised Land. Similarly, we pass out of this world and enter into the Kingdom on God, into eternal life through Jesus Christ. He was crucified on the greatest of Jewish festivals - The Passover. The major difference is that whilst the children of Israel had to wait 40 years to enter the Promised Land, their inheritance, Christians enter immediately on believing in Jesus Christ which is followed by their Baptism - the kingdom of God or heaven enters us immediately. The ultimate inheritance is when we "fall asleep" and are clothed with a new immortal body for Eternal life at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Dying to this world

A true Christian dies to this world. The world, this present age, has no attractions for a true Christian. The magnetic attraction has gone - the iron in us has been washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ to de-magnetise us!

This world is Satan's world. 1 John 2: 14-23. Satan is the adversary of Jesus Christ The Greek word means "adversary"). Satan wants all of mankind to go to Hell. Jesus Christ came to set men free from Satan's vice-like grip so that mankind can go to Heaven. Ties to this world are ties to Satan - his normative systems, his value systems, his cultures which reject Jesus Christ and His Kingdom of Heaven culture. In fact, the world hates a true believer

" *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.* " **John 15: 18- 19.**

Christians are commanded not to conform to this world

Romans 12: 2 .

" *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* " **Romans 12: 2**

If people in the world look-up to you, then you could be forgiven if you asked yourself - what have I done wrong?

" *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide their feet into the way of peace* " **Luke 1: 79**

" *If anyone loves [agapes] the world , the love [agape] of the Father is not in Him* " **1 John 2: 15b**

" *I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes and to turn them from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me* "

Acts 26: 17- 18

" *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil* "

1 John 3: 8b

" *No man can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Satan) "* **Matthew 6: 24**

READ: **Matthew 13: 1- 23** Parable of the Sower -lessons about Satan , commitment, loyalty, and unswerving devotion compared to the attractions of the world. This is a key parable which exposes the key influences on a believer's life - Jesus Christ Himself presents us with the explanation.

Luke 14:25- 33 Counting the cost of discipleship. The need to do our sums before making a commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:17- 32 Obviously we all need constant reminding not to sink back into the world and its ways - the domain of Satan.

A Man who has the Cross in his sights does not look back

" *No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God* "

Luke 9: 62

Catapulting into the Kingdom of God - the Christian exodus out of this world and into heaven

The new born Christian is thus thrust or catapulted, from the Kingdom of Satan - this world which is under the satanic influence of demons working through powerful evil men (and women) - into the Kingdom of God. A new born Christian (or "Born-again" Christian) immediately becomes a slave to Christ, totally obeying His Words (contained in the Holy Bible). **Romans Chapter 6.** By this one act, the Baptised one receives all the blessings of the fullness of Jesus Christ, something very difficult to realize, but nevertheless very true.

Comment:

1. Pharaoh and his army were drowned in the sea hot in pursuit. That is Satan, the Flesh, the old world and life is buried once and for all through baptism in repentance. For us, the demons which inhabit us have no legal right to remain in our bodies and souls - they must leave - but they will only leave if we hate them enough to tell them to get off our "bus" ie our bodies. The Israelites had "Hobson's choice – they had to turn to YHWH for their salvation (Greek σωζω –sozo- to save from peril, injury or suffering; of healing, restoring to health; of past, present, and future as redemption.

2. Rising out of the water symbolises the resurrection of Jesus Christ into a new life (the "old man " is " dead ", the " new man " is now alive in Christ Jesus). Just as the children of Israel went through the waters of the Red Sea, so the pursuing Egyptian army was drowned by the water. Similarly, the demons and sins of our lives are drowned.

The Cloud is representative of the presence of The Holy Spirit – the protector, The one who shields from danger (Greek παρακλητε - paraklete- the enabler, strengthener

" The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it produces much grain ."

John 12:24

" Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world ! "

John 1:29

This refers to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ at Calvary. **Matthew Chapter 27**

Mark Chapter 15, Luke Chapter 23, John Chapter 19

Imaging - restoration

Baptism restores the image of God (by this is meant everything that is God as revealed in the Holy Bible - for instance in image, character, personality)

We are descendants of Adam and Eve (not apes). When Adam and Eve succumbed to the tricky words of Satan in the Garden of Eden, sin entered into the lives of mankind. The image of God and the intimate relationship that Adam enjoyed with God was broken by the act of rebellion of disobeying His words not the eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden lest they discover the Tree of Eternal Life. **Genesis Chapter 3.**

Adam was created in the image of God. **Genesis 1:26.** This image was distorted by sin by Satan using the words " *and you shall become like God knowing good and evil* " **Genesis 3: 5.** Is it any small wonder then that an egotistical man believes that he is god? How many religions do you know which talk about "the god within us?" (and their god is not YHWH, the one true living God), and their adherents try to "discover the god within themselves". In sharp contrast, the Holy Spirit comes from without and indwells us!

The image of Jesus Christ

The nation of Israel was expecting a Messiah in the image of a conquering King to free them from the tyranny of the brutal Roman rulers. While the majority "got-it-all-wrong" a small minority were onto it (revealed by Nicodemus in his secret meeting with Jesus Christ reported in John Chapter 3). The image of the suffering Messiah, is the key image for those who are saved and being saved. The Passion of The Christ movie by Mel Gibson

highlights the brutal violence of His death - Jesus Christ subjected Himself to the Cross for us all, for each one of us!

" *Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.*

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD revealed? For He has grown up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground.

*He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected of men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him, Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted, But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. And we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted; yet He opened not His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison, and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgression of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked - But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. " **Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 1 - 9***

Other images of Jesus Christ include: The Great gentle Shepherd who will go looking for the one lost sheep and carry it back home **Matthew 18:12**; the One who kicks over rip-off merchants' tables in the Synagogue in righteous indignation **John 2:14-17**; The One filled with compassion for the poor and sick - He healed them all **Matthew 8:16-17**; The One filled with righteous indignation at the hypocrisy of religious men - and who dared to do things, speak-up, and lambaste them **Matthew 23: 1- 36**; the One who could see through the intents of the hearts of all men and women **John 8:3-12** ; the One who set His face and gaze at the Cross - knowing His destiny **Mark 9:31**. Finally, at the apocalypse, the Messiah will come as " King of Kings and Lord of Lords" at the second coming to save mankind from destroying himself! **Revelations 19:16**. This is sufficient to reveal the One who as both fully man and fully God **Philippians 2:5-11** whose Father was God The Father, and whose mother was Mary who was betrothed to Joseph. It is Jesus Christ who we can all uphold and emulate.

Salvation - Inner Healing, Deliverance from demons

Jesus Christ launched His PhD ministry from a synagogue in Nazareth it by quoting from Isaiah:

" *The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me*

To preach the gospel to the poor,

He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted,

To preach deliverance to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty those who are oppressed,

To preach the acceptable year of the LORD

" **Luke 4:18**

" Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing " **Luke 4: 21b**

.....and may it be fulfilled in your own hearing today as you read and participate in the word of God. May your faith be placed in Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour.

Jesus Christ's presence within means: 'down and outers' are given hope, our broken hearts are healed, people held in demonic bondages are set free, and the blind are made to see - all physical and spiritual blindness, illnesses are healed at the Cross of Calvary

In Isaiah Chapter 53, (quoted in Matthew 8: 16-17 linking the act of casting our demons and healing of the sick are part and parcel of Jesus' work on earth) we learn about Jesus Christ.....

" He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows " v.4 & 5 " He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities " " by His stripes we are healed" v.5 " The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" v.6

" Faith comes by hearing and hearing from the word of God " Romans 10: 17

*" My Son give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For **they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh** "*
Proverbs 4: 20 -22

The Greek word for salvation or being saved is "Sozo" . The word embraces the transfer from one kingdom into another as well as "deliverance" or salvation from physical and spiritual illness and the presence and effects of demons and demonic bondage.

The act of " being born again " or "Born again" is receiving the fullness of the word salvation. The one doing the saving is Jesus Christ: the one being saved is the repentant sinner. The Greek word "Salvation" or "deliverance" is usually used in the present continuous tense in Greek - that is, salvation begins at a point in time and continues on, into the future.

One short sentence summarise this life-long commitment to walk to Heaven.

" Not I, but Christ " Galatians 2:20

In Him we have life: without Him we have death

Read: **Matthew 8: 16- 17** Jesus' ministry

Mark 5 The Gadarenes Demoniac -

NOTE:

1. That a legion of demons (a Roman Legion consisted of 3,000 - 6,000 men) can live in a man attests to the power of our body and soul to contain them within. The demons controlled that poor man.
2. A demon called Legion knows who Jesus Christ is, talks with Him, and requests Jesus to let them stay in the Gadarenes region.
3. The demon(s) gave the man extraordinary strength, made him live in the tombs, and caused him to be restless.
4. When the Demoniac was set free of the demons by Jesus Christ, the man was of a sound mind (no longer tormented, demented), sat at the feet of Jesus Christ (placid, contented, no longer living and roaming about), and was clothed (not an exhibitionist, respectable). The man wanted to stay with Jesus.

5. The demons wanted to stay in the area - were allowed to go into the herd of swine who then caused the swine to stampede and drown in the lake. Then the people fear Jesus Christ - did the demons enter into them? It certainly seems so.

Some questions

What does this tell us true event tells about our need for deliverance from demonic control and interference? Do we believe those who say that demons do not exist? Do we believe those who say and teach that a Christian cannot have demons in them? And if you think that you do have a demon or two in you where do you go for your deliverance? If you have been involved in the occult, or given yourself over to transcendental meditation, read horoscopes, practice yoga, or have been dedicated as a baby to an idol (read demon) do you think you need to repent and ask for God's forgiveness? Do you think things which you know goes against God's words? Worst still do you do things which you know God hates and detests, but you cannot control your actions? If so, you may need some demons cast out of you in Jesus Christ's name!

The Biblical teaching on Predestination:

God chooses who is to be changed into God's image -

Baptism is the work of God, not man.

" He came into His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to then He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." **John 1: 11 - 13**

*" Then I went down to the potter's house, ad there he was, making something at the wheel.. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ' O House of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?' says the LORD. ' Look, **as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!**"* **Jeremiah 18: 3 - 6** Read on to end of Chapter

*" For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."*

Romans 8: 29 - 30, See also Acts 27: 20,

" You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you should ask the Father in My name He may give you "

John 15: 16

This contradicts the emphasis by Churches on training of disciples to be sent out by the church - God provides workers in the harvest **1 Corinthians** - they are led by the Holy Spirit, not trained by men. **1 Corinthians 1: 18- 31**. He calls those who are to be saved **Acts 2: 38-39**. Flesh begets flesh, Spirit begets spirit. **Galatians 6: 8**. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is emblazoned with " signs and wonders " - God's shorthand for the healing and deliverance which was and still is the hallmark of Jesus Christ's ministry and His presence. **Mark 16: 16-18, 1 Corinthians Chapter 1.**

Two examples of Baptism- analogies in the Bible **Lessons in obedience and disobedience.**

The Cloud & The sea - 1 Corinthians 10: 1- 22 & The Book of Exodus Chapters 13-21

There are tremendous lessons for us 1 Cor 10:11, for example:

1. **The Cloud** protected the whole nation in the desert from the sun and at night it turned into a pillar of fire to provide warmth - air-conditioning for both day and night - and protection from wild animals . Water came from the Rock they carried. Their shoes did not wear out and they did not need to change clothes. They were fed by manna from heaven which they just gathered every morning - enough for that day except for the day before the Sabbath day (rest day)when they picked-up a double portion (on any other day any extra manna turned into worms/
Inexplicably, the children of Israel still sinned at the first opportunity, and were continually dissatisfied with God's total provision (wanted meat, murmuring against God). What does this tell us about ourselves today?
2. **Idolatry is worshipping demons 1 Cor 10:20.** Egypt was full of Idolatry. The real problem was that the Israelites physically left Egypt but took the demons with them - hence as soon as Moses left them to go up the mountain to receive the 10 Commandments the Israelites immediately made baal idols to worship! Burning cultic objects, magical books, and anything associated with Satan is sanctioned by God, and produces violent reactions from demonized people Acts Chapter 19.
3. **The Egyptians [demon filled men] pursued the Israelites** but were prevented by God from catching-up with them, and when they passed through the sea, the Egyptians were drowned by the sea. Baptism is therefore getting rid of the pursuing demons, and drowning those within us (for those who believe that demons can and do live in humans!) Exodus 15: 19- 21.
4. **Sexual immorality** is a norm for idolaters - anything but the worship of Jesus Christ is idolatry. Is it therefore surprising that immorality is rampant among "churches" as it is in the world? 1 Corinthians 10:8

The Ark - 2 Peter 2:5, Genesis Chapters 6- 10

1. **The ark where God's children are to be found** God provided the plans and specifications to Noah who built it, then got into it together with the animals. They were protected from the rain, flood, and wind, in the same way that the house of the wise man which was built on the rock was as safe as compared to the house of the silly man who built his house on sand. Matthew 7: 24-29.
2. **The ark - a place of ultimate safety** and of peace-of-mind. God provides for all our needs as He provided for the exilic Israelites. The Ark of Jesus is Jesus Christ Himself!
3. **Few can be saved** - Only eight out of the whole world were saved - one household. Many households called- few household chosen. The *oikos* (household) formula for salvation is God's formula Acts 16:31. Man's formula is the "church".
4. **Free-will** -Those who did not get into the ark exercised their free-will - they are called "ungodly". Those that get into the ark are "godly"
5. **Drowning** - death to self in Baptism in water, or dying in the waters of the world - a choice.

2. Baptism in The Holy Spirit - as an in-filling of, to

be controlled and led by, the Holy Spirit

" *In Him we live and move and have our being* " **Acts 17:28a**

" *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* " **Galatians 2:20**

The Holy Spirit entered into the world on the Day of Pentecost, a major festival for the Jews which occurs 50 days after Passover, the Greatest or most important festival of the Jewish year. The Holy Spirit was literally poured out of heaven onto the believers and a sound was heard like a rushing mighty wind filling the house where they were gathered, and the 120 disciples were seen to have tongues of fire over them. They spoke in tongues (*glossalia*) as the Spirit gave them utterance. The devout men in Jerusalem who numbered 17 different language groups heard Peter preach the words of the Holy Spirit. About 3,000 men responded - their hearts were "cut" and they cried out what shall we do? Peter responded with the famous words:

" *Repent and let everyone of you be Baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call* " **Acts 2: 38-39**

NOTE:

1. The outpouring produced tremendous excitement and resulted in them all speaking in tongues. *Glossalia* is the Greek word for "{ecstatic utterance" as a result of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.
2. Anointed preaching where the Holy Spirit speaks through a human vessel produces repentance.
3. The preacher's response to the question of " What can we do is? " for everyone to Repent, be baptised for the remission of sins, and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise of repentance, baptism, and the Holy spirit is for all their children, plus those who the Lord God calls. The reaction of men is to submit themselves to the work of God.
4. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God to all disciples. He, The Spirit, is the third person of the Trinity.
5. There is a direct link between the salvation of the men and their children. In other words the men and their households are saved by God. **See Acts chapters 10 & 16, Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6**
6. The men had just witnessed a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. They could expect the same for themselves and for their children.
7. The word "pouring" is important. It came from Heaven not from within men. The Holy Spirit was poured out of heaven by God into men just like we pour tea into a cup for drinking.

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit **Matthew 1:20** and lived a sinless life **1 Peter 2:22**. When Jesus Christ came up out of the water, after His baptism in water, the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove. **Matthew 3:16, Luke 3: 22**. After His resurrection, Jesus Christ left earth and the Holy Spirit came as a rushing mighty wind, was poured out of heaven upon the 120 believers gathered in the upper room, and the Holy Spirit filled them, then the Holy Spirit was poured onto the 3,000 men who

repented of their sins under the anointed (Holy Spirit at work) preaching of Peter Acts chapters 1 & 2.

Jesus Christ was "*led*" **Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:1** and "*thrown*" or "*drove*" [Greek *ekballo* - *ek* is out of, *ballo* 'is throw' like a ball] **Mark 1:12** out into the fiery wilderness immediately by the Holy Spirit after his water baptism. This dramatically reveals to us that Jesus Christ was now under total control of His Father God's Spirit. Satan then tempted Jesus Christ in the wilderness when He was at His physical weakest. A Believer's wilderness is the world. Satan or the Devil is ever present to ensure that a Believer does not make it to the end of the road to Heaven. The Holy Spirit strengthens and enables us to resist the devil and make him flee from us! **James 4: 7**

Walking in the spirit

" *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit* " **Galatians 5: 24-25**

" *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death* " **Romans 8: 1- 2**

Jesus Christ's first commandment to His apostles and disciples was "*Come, Follow Me*" **Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17, John 1:43**. Without exception, they did just that. They left behind the comfort and security of a known world -jobs, family obligations, their roles in highly structures society dominated by the religious life and cultus which permeated every aspect of life - social, cultural, economic, political, and religious. This commandment led each one into uncharted terrain, with uncertain upsetting twists, ending in the premature violent death of each one as much as history reveals.

1 Corinthians Chapter 10 A whole chapter is devoted to discussing this walk in the Holy Spirit where the Holy Spirit through Paul cites Old Testament examples such as the 40 years of Wilderness wanderings under the Cloud (Holy Spirit's/ God's protection through the fiery wilderness/desert), fed by the spirit with food (manna) and water (from the rock). The fact that the Israelites failed to obey God with acts of murmurings, harlotry and sexual immorality serves as a poignant reminder that the walk of following after Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit is not an easy task. This is especially true of the persecution Jesus Christ endured from the Jewish hierarchy, then by the 'Jewish' Christians, and soon after by the 'Gentile' Christians by pagan idolaters. The tide of history records two major events: c.a. AD62 when Emperor Nero burned Christians at the stake forcing the Christians to walk into the 'Catacomb experience' for survival, then the ransacking of Jerusalem in AD70 which ushered in the Great Diaspora, or scattering of the Jews into the world - this also affected the Christians living under the brutal iron-fisted rule by the Romans. We are reminded to learn from the Cloud and wilderness wanderings. **vs. 11-13**

Furthermore, God records in the Book of Acts and the letters in the New Testament the Christian experience of persecution and the difficulties they experienced.

Faith in Jesus Christ requires us to leave the comfortable old life and embrace a spiritual life of the unknown and uncertainty completely immersed in a Life in the Holy Spirit. Safety and certainty is thus redefined for us - faith is trusting Jesus Christ for everything even though it is beyond our human understanding

" Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen " **Hebrews 11:1**

To do this successfully we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, His Cross

" ...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. " **Hebrews 12: 2**

The work of the Holy Spirit - His job specifications

" Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Greek *paraklete*] will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come,

*He will convict the world of sin,
And of righteousness,
And of judgment*

Of sin, because they do not believe in Me

Of righteousness, because I go to the Father and you see me no more;

Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged " John 16: 7 - 11

The work of the Holy Spirit - in me

The baptism of Jesus Christ and His wilderness experience sets the pattern for our own lives. He was Baptised, The Holy Spirit alighted upon Him and stayed with Him, Then He was taken out into the fiery wilderness for His Baptism in Fire.

God gives us the distinct impression that Jesus Christ was no longer in control of His life (if He ever was). His Baptism in Water and the coming of the Holy Spirit separated him from His natural family. The words used by God to describe the wilderness section of His Baptism is illuminating. He is "Led" **Matthew and Luke** He is "thrown out" **Mark 1: 12**. This is the final act from God which underlines who is now in control of Jesus Christ's life - God Himself, not man! The cutting from His family is revealed by Matthew when his disciples tell him that His family are waiting for Him - His response is "Whoever does the will of the Father is His mother and brother and sister" . In fact, for the follower of Jesus Christ, a person's own family can well be their own worst enemies. Taking up one's own Cross requires total dedication and commitment **Matthew 10: 34- 39**

Filled with "*dunamis*" power **1 Corinthians 1:18** *Dunamis* is like dynamite

Paul preferred to demonstrate the power of the Cross , the power of Jesus Christ, than to argue.

Filled with "*exousia*" power or authority of government **Matthew 28: 18**

Exousia is like authority given to us from a Government to Ambassador, from Jesus the King to each and every believer! This makes us bold to speak in Jesus Christ's name, with His authority - to say what He would have say in any given situation.

Filled with the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit **1 Corinthians 12: 8 - 10**

Filled with the 9 Fruit of the Holy Spirit **Galatians 5:22-23. Read Galatians 5:22-26**

Filled with agape (pure sacrificial love emanating from God as in **John 3:16, 1 John 3:16, John 15:17**)

Filled with the dying Christ

" Always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body " **2 Corinthians 4:10**

|

If we are continually dying to ourselves Jesus Christ will continue to manifest

His life, His glory in us until His presence dwarfs us.

Comment: There are two problems. A rite of baptism does not ipso facto confer the Holy Spirit on and into a believer, as some churches teach their adherents. Similarly, the Holy Spirit may come upon and abide in the believer at Baptism either by the laying-on of hands, or supernaturally. The book of Acts records the "pouring", "in-filling" of the Holy Spirit to believers - **Acts Chapter 2:2,4; 2:17,18, 33; 4: 8, 31**

3. Baptism In Fire - as a walk through persecution and affliction for the words sake and for His name's sake, for continuing cleansing, to be Holy.

Persecution is the norm for all who choose to become holy. Holiness is being set aside for God. The Holy Bible is a book set aside from all other books. A Christian becomes a living holy book of the Triune Godhead. Holiness and persecution are two sides of the same coin.

" ...and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution " **2 Timothy 3: 12**

" ...you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise and honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ". **1 Peter 1: 6b- 7**

" ...But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. " **1 Peter 2: 20b-21**

" If they persecuted Me then they will persecute you " **John 15: 20**

" Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven , for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. " **Beatitudes Matthew 5: 10-12**

NOTE: The Beatitudes are The Blessings of God. The word blessed in Greek refers to having the fullness of Christ in us - to have His mind towards sin, this world, and in all things.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Jewish Temple system by offering Himself as the Pascal Lamb - He died on the greatest of all Jewish festivals, the Passover, as an offering for " *the sins of the world* " **John 1:29**

Comment: The Baptism in Fire is one which can be overtly or subtly deflected by a believer. An active and aggressive rejection of sins and an uncompromising stand for purity in thought and deed togetherwith a rejection of the ways of this world, automatically sets-up a believer to be very different and to start a cycle of persecution for Jesus Christ's name's sake. Refusal to accept patently wrong teaching (unbiblical) in a Church invites ostracism.

The three Baptisms combine within he person to make them into " A new creation " in the image of Christ.

"He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. . Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. " **2 Corinthians 5: 15- 17**

Costs of restoration

Restoring something back to its original condition takes hard work, great skill, and a lot of elbow grease. In the case of believers, we submit ourselves to our Triune God passively, and all the work is done by the Godhead.

The costs of following Jesus Christ are high.

Taking up your own Cross **Matthew 16:24**, dying to yourself **Galatians 2:20**, dying to the world **1 John 2:15**, carrying about in us the crucified Christ **2 Corinthians 4:10**, re-imagining to become like Jesus Christ **2 Corinthians 3:18**, being at loggerheads with the world **Matthew 10: 34- 39**, our families and friends we have grown-up with, trying to conform our thinking patterns **2 Timothy 1:13** to those of Heaven (our new country of citizenship) **Ephesians 2: 19**, not conforming to the ways of this world **Matthew 13: 3- 9, 18-23**, constantly being on the look-out for attacks from Satan and his band of demon helpers (some subtle, some full-frontal) **Ephesians 6** , learning to walk in the Spirit and not by "flesh" **Galatians 5:24- 25**, listening to the soft promptings of the Holy Spirit who abides in us **John 14:26** , is obviously not easy.

The way of the Cross sets us up for ridicule, ostracism, persecution. Being different is not the way "to win friends and influence people"! **Galatians 5:11; 6:12**

The rewards however are a crown of life and the thunderous cheers of angels who are already in Heaven. **2 Timothy 2: 5 , Luke 15: 10**,

Four case study precedents for Christians

1. **The crucifixion & resurrections of Jesus Christ** **Matthew Chapters 26-28, Mark Chapters 15-16, Luke Chapters 22- 24, John Chapters 18 - 21, Isaiah Chapter 53**
2. **The stoning of Stephen** **Acts Chapter 7** - the first Christian martyr murdered by religious people who rejected Jesus Christ
3. **The life of Paul** **Acts 9: 1-31, Galatians Chapters 1 & 2, 1 Corinthians Chapters 1 & 2, 2 Corinthians Chapters 6 to 7:1,**
4. **The Hebrew Christians** **Hebrews 11: 30- 40**
5. _____
(can you insert your own name in the blank space?)

Read Fox's book of Martyrs. Rather than being the exception, persecution of true Christians is the norm. Persecution is the hallmark of Holiness.

God cites the problems of "face" or loving the glory or praise of men as being a major stumbling block for men - fear of being evicted from the synagogue is equated to fear of persecution. The phrase "outside the Church no salvation" used by the Roman

Church to intimidate Roman Catholic believers had its origins way back in Jesus Christ's days.

" Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved (agaped) the praise (doxa) of men more than the praise (doxa) of God " **John 12: 42-43**

NOTE: The Greek word *doxa* may be translated as "praise" or "glory". The glory of God is similar to the Hebrew word *Shekinah* used to signify God's glory in the Temple when He appeared there in the Old Testament. The linking of the Greek words of *agape* with the *doxa* of men contrasted with the *doxa* of God reveals the idolatrous nature of those who did put men before God, of men agaping the glory of men more than the glory of God. The manner in which God describes this reveals His absolute graciousness in the face of idolatry.

BAPTISM - You and your household

The Baptism in Jesus Christ is the gateway to Eternal life through Jesus Christ. Traditional mainline churches (eg. Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodist), believe that children may be baptised. Evangelical and Pentecostal thinking more often than not precludes child baptism, requiring instead the ritual of "dedication" so that a child will come to an understanding of the word repentance in their own time.

Here is the Biblical formula - it is known as the '*oikos*' formula for salvation.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

So they said,

“**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,**

And you will be saved,

you and your household.(oikos)”

Then they spoke

the word of the Lord *to him* and *to **all who were in his house.***

And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes.

And immediately ***he and all his family*** were baptised.

Now when he had brought them into his *house*, he set food before them;

and *he rejoiced*, having believed in God

with all his household.(oikos)

Acts 16: 31- 32

BAPTISM OF THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD?

1. Definition of Household.

It is submitted that the proper biblical context of baptism is ***the household***, (that is all those who live under the same roof, or are family members). Jesus Christ is the Head of every Christian household. The household may include husband, wife, children, slaves, or whoever accepts the headship of the Head of Household. If the head of household is baptised in the name of Jesus Christ then his/her household may be baptised as well if they hear the Gospel and believe **Ephesians 5: 1 to 6: 9; Acts 16: 31-32.**

The household in the Bible may be defined as:

- a. The living descendents of the Head-of-the household. For instance, the House of David includes King David's wife, children, grandchildren, and great grand children.
 - b. All those who live under one roof who form a household. In the New Testament this would include the nuclear family (husband,wife, children), Any extended family members such as grandparents, brother and sisters, uncles and aunties plus slaves etc.
 - c. In the Old Testament the male Jews underwent ceremonies, including baptismal rites. Thus all male members of each family were circumcised. Presumably, all the women were included in the Household even though they were not required to participate in the rites.
 - d. The Christian baptism derives from the Jewish custom. As the first converts to Christianity were Jewish, it is not surprising to find baptism to be incorporated as the first public demonstration of a change of religion (Judaism) to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ.
2. The message of salvation in the New Testament includes the household in seven outstanding examples (God places a lot of importance to this subject matter):
1. [Acts 2: 38 - 39](#) relates the response of men to the Holy Spirit's call to repentance on the Day of Pentecost. Three thousand men responded with consequences for their households (children are especially singled-out for inclusion).
 2. [Acts Chapter 10](#) Cornelius the Centurion and his household are baptised in the Holy Spirit right before Peter's eyes. He and his household plus some close friends are Baptised in Water through Peter.
 3. [Acts 16: 14- 15](#) Lydia and her household are baptised.
 4. [Acts 16: 25- 34](#) The Philippian gaoler and his household are baptised. The "*oikos*" formula of household baptism is firmly established by the Holy Spirit with the words
*" Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household
 [Greek 'oikos'] will be saved"*
 5. [2 Peter 2:5 and Genesis Chapters 6 - 9](#) Noah and his three sons and their wives, eight were saved in the Ark, one household. This is fact not fiction!
 6. [1 Corinthians Chapter 7](#). Here The Holy Spirit states unequivocally that just one spouse who becomes a believer is enough to sanctify the other spouse and the children in the household.
 7. [Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6](#) This is the longest discussion in the New Testament on the household and its relationships under the Headship of Jesus Christ. So please take special care to meditate on the importance of these words and put them into action in your home.

The fact remains that normal Christian " Church" practice may preclude the baptism of the whole household. Most opt for baptism by individual members of the household as they become old enough to know what repentance is.

It is the view of this writer that such thinking and practice mistakenly negates the clear intentions of God in respect to Baptism of the household. It is the primary duty and responsibility of the Heads of the household to take care of all the needs of their children - provide shelter, warmth, clothing, good health, education, to teach them how to live in this world (inculcate the norms and values), to equip them psychologically

and emotionally and most important of all to teach them about Jesus Christ and the work of the Cross. **Deuteronomy Chapter 6 , Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6.**

Thus the will of the Holy Spirit has been circumvented by the will of men who instill their own interpretation of the Holy Spirit's word as contained in the Holy Bible. Men negate God's words by their own traditions

" *you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition* " **Matthew 15: 6b**
Jesus Christ calls such people Hypocrites (in Greek this word means "actors")

" *Hypocrites ! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you saying:
These people draw near to Me with their mouths, And honour Me with their lips.
But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrine the
commandments of men* " **Matthew 15: 7 - 9**

Baptism of the whole family or household was undoubtedly a New Testament practice, as revealed by The Holy Spirit.

In addition to Holy Scripture, the exhaustive work of Joachim Jeremias (1960) proves beyond any reasonable doubt that history, archaeology, and the Bible record confirms baptism of the household included children. Whilst the reader may raise the objection that Jeremias is writing from the standpoint of the establishment and is therefore conservative, his analysis is scholarly and painstakingly objective, and more importantly, Biblically accurate.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHAT MAY HAPPEN AT YOUR BAPTISM or RE-BAPTISM ?

Answer:

The "Baptiser" (the human agent for Almighty God) hops into the water with you. You submerge yourself completely into the water (fully covered by the water), then stand-up. Hands are laid upon you for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (infilling). Your Baptism should set you on a path to follow the steps of our Lord Jesus Christ – He, and He alone, should be your model. Alternatively, the Holy Spirit may Baptise you without any human agent

WHAT IF I HAVE ALREADY BEEN BAPTISED IN A CHURCH?

Answer:

The answer to this question lies with you, the individual. If you went through a marriage ceremony which had no social and legal basis, then you would probably want to do it again properly - in the eyes of God and man. It is in the end a matter concerning your own heart and conscience. The same goes for Baptism.

The Baptism into Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christian life - the wise man built his house upon the rock [Jesus Christ], and the silly man built his on sand [anything but Jesus Christ]. **Matthew 7: 24-29.** The New Testament teaches that the Holy Spirit lives within, or "indwells" our human temple (our body) **1 Corinthians 3: 16-17, 6: 19-20.**

As mentioned right at the beginning of this discussion, If you think that your Christian life has been built on the wrong foundation then you have two options to consider: you can tear down the building and start again; or, to do nothing and maintain the status quo.

Here are some responses to some problems:

1. If you have been baptised as a Church ritual and have never repented of your sins then you must rethink your motives. The fundamental prerequisite of Baptism is Repentance. If this was missing then you will have to consider doing it all over again with Repentance.
2. If you saw your baptism as primarily for Church membership then you will have to rethink your motives and seriously consider rebaptism.
3. If you were baptised because someone asked you to and you were not sure why you did it then you need to go right back to the drawing boards.
4. If you were "Christened" as in Sprinkling via an Roman Catholic or Anglican Church or similar institution, then you were not baptised in the Biblical sense. You will need to be Baptised unto Repentance by full immersion.

Unfortunately, many who become "Christians" choose to walk the religious Church way (such should be called "Churchians") , a way of man, of the flesh preferring to follow a set of rules and regulations, rather than enjoy the freedom which the gift of Grace brings in the power of the Holy Spirit. Such people are referred to by God as being "Carnal". **1 Corinthians Chapter 3**. Such are reliant on the works of the "Flesh" (human strength and human wisdom) **Galatians 5: 16-26**, . and legalism **Galatians 3: 1- 25, 4: 21-26** Such persons are not Christians (see below).

If you have ever walked forward at an evangelical crusade, or put-up your hand in a Church to give your life to the Lord, and have not been baptised in Jesus Christ, then you will need to seriously consider your present status. If you have committed your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, but have not submitted yourself to the Baptism in Jesus Christ, then, you will need to seriously consider your present status. Baptism is an act of obedience following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY BELONGS TO A CHURCH?

Many people think that salvation is by inheritance or by natural birth. "Our family are Anglicans", "we are Baptists", etc. The Jews thought that they were the chosen ones and therefore their salvation was assured because they were direct descendents of Abraham. Jesus says – not so! Obedience and doing God's will is the important thing – beware, you can disqualify yourself by rejecting Christ. **John 8: 37- 47**.

Unless you are taught about the work of the Cross in your life and in the life of your family , you may not know about the residence of Jesus Christ in your own body. Jesus Christ says you need to be born again, into Jesus Christ - a spiritual rebirth! **John Chapter 3**.

Belonging to a Church does not bring salvation into your family. It is believing in Jesus Christ, the name of Jesus Christ as Saviour who saves, not the church!

A potential problem exists - it is a problem of emphasis and where you spend your time. If you are a church going family then the church may play a dominant role in your life and the life of your family. The emphasis may not be on the Lordship of Jesus Christ over your family or household, and the operation of your household under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The next question addresses this issue.

COUNTERFEIT BAPTISMS

A counterfeit likes like the real thing. A good counterfeit is difficult to tell apart from the real. God's word provides the definition of the real Baptism. Counterfeit baptisms are a "dim-a-dozen" and fall into two major categories: Firstly, where there is no true repentance, and secondly, where the baptism is a ritual as in membership into a church or Christian group, as in a Christening in the Anglican Church and Roman Catholic Church.

WHAT IF I HAVE BEEN BAPTISED IN WATER BUT NOT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Answer: Holy Scripture is very clear on this question. If you have been baptised in water unto Jesus Christ but not in the Holy Spirit, then you get Baptised in The Holy Spirit. God cites three important instances in Acts - for example: Acts chapter 2 - the entry of the Holy Spirit into the world and onto and into 120 believers. The second example is given in Acts Chapters 10 to 11 when the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and all those who heard Peter's preaching. This was undeniable, as they all began to speak in tongues. Peter then baptised them all. The third example is found in Acts 19: 1-10 where Paul discovers about 12 disciples who had been baptised in John's Baptism for repentance but not in the Baptism of Jesus Christ to receive the Holy Spirit. Paul laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

WHAT ABOUT THE BAPTISM IN FIRE?

Answer:

Jesus Christ was Baptised to fulfill righteousness **Matthew 3:15** Jesus Christ was Baptised in The Holy Spirit, then He was led **Matthew 4:1** and Thrown or drove **Mark 1: 12** into the wilderness for His Baptism in Fire which lasted initially for 40 days and nights, then thrust back into direct confrontation with the "Church system" of his day - the Jewish religious system, in another Baptism in Fire culminating in His crucifixion on the Cross. It is therefore highly significant that the entry into the World of The Holy Spirit upon the believers was evidenced by "tongues of fire"

on top of each Apostle. Each of them met with a violent death. Early Christians leading up to the 3rd Century all suffered tremendous persecution **Hebrews 11: 33- 40**.

Christianity gained State sanctioning under the false conversion of Constantine who was singly responsible for the establishment of the Roman Church System as we have it today.

" ...God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified in me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation " **Galatians 6: 14- 15**

Repentance is knowing....

- that you deserve to die for your sins, but Jesus Christ died in your place
John 3:16, Hebrews 9:28
- that your sins are forgiven
Romans 5: 8 - 9
- the cleansing power of water and the blood of Jesus Christ
1 John 5: 6-8; Ephesians 1:7
- that your sins are washed clean
Isaiah 1: 18
- that you are on the Calvary Road to heaven
John 3:16, John 14:1- 6; Philippians 2: 5- 11
- that you have a new life and blessing from God to be "born again"
John Chapter 3; 1 Corinthians 3: 16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5: 17

The Baptism of Jesus Christ - What are the effects?

The total submersion into water and in the blood of Jesus Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, and walking the narrow road to Heaven.....:

- Sets us free of the grip of Satan in this world and all that binds us to this world..... 1 John 3:8
- Sets us free to confess our sins so that they are washed clean by the water and blood of Jesus Christ..... 1 John 5:6 1 John 1:7-9
- Sets us free of sin and sins Romans Chapter 5: 12- 21, 6: 20-23
- Sets us free to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ..... .Philippians 2: 5-11
- Sets us free to be a slave of Jesus Christ Romans 6: 16, 22
- Sets us free of demonic bondages;..... Luke 4:18; Exodus 15: 1; Mark 5: 1- 20
- Sets us free of ancestral and demonic curses Exodus 20: 4- 6; Leviticus 17: 7
- Deuteronomy 18: 9- 14, 32: 17; 1 Corinthians 10: 20
- Sets us free of all illnesses Luke 4: 18; Isaiah 53: 5
- Sets us free of a guilty conscience Hebrews 9: 14, 10:22; 1 Peter 3: 15-16
- Sets in motion an image change - from Satan's to God's glory..... 2 Corinthians 3: 18
- Sets us free to carry our own Cross daily Matthew 16: 24- 28
- Sets us free to carry about in our bodies the crucified Christ..... 2 Corinthians 4: 10 - 12
- Sets us free to agape God - to obey His commandments John 14: 15
- Sets our spirits free to worship Him every minute of the day, every day..... Romans 12: 1
- Worship is continually putting ourselves onto His alter as a living sacrifice ; Psalm 139
- Sets us free to be led by the Holy Spirit continuously..... Romans 8: 1-2; Galatians 5: 25
- Sets us free to allow Jesus Christ to manifest His life in us Acts 17: 28
- Sets us free to be filled with God's 9 gifts of agape..... 1 Corinthians 13: 4- 7
- Sets us free to be filled with God's agape love, grace & truth 1 John 4: 8, John 1: 14
- Sets us free to be filled with the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit..... 1 Corinthians 12: 8- 11
- Sets us free to be filled with the 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5: 22-23

*Note: The beautiful image of the gentle, graceful Dove
 (New Testament symbol of the abiding of the Holy spirit in and over us)
 The Body is God's agape (Son Jesus Christ),
 The two Wings each have 9 primary feathers
 one Wing has nine gifts of the Spirit, the other Wing has the 9 gifts of the Spirit*

In the power of the Holy Spirit we can soar like an eagle led by the currents of the ruach
 (Hebrew for wind =spirit of god) - effortless living under the guidance of the spirit, but not
 a trouble free journey for holiness' sake! Isaiah 40: 31

- Sets us free to receive the 8-fold blessings - the Beatitudes from God. Matthew 5: 1- 12
- sets us free from death - in participating in Christ's death we are set free from death. 1 Corinthians 15: 54-55

All that is necessary for our salvation has been completed at the Cross of Jesus Christ - all we have to do is to walk in it - to believe in Him, place our complete trust in Him, throw ourselves under His care - His Cross.

" If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free..... Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed "

John 8: 31b -32, 36

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Praise His most wonderful name!

END

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This bibliography contains references consulted in the process of committing this discussion to paper. The discussion has emerged from a lengthy time in following the Lord Jesus Christ many words from a variety of sources such as books, personal sharing by Christian brothers and sisters, sermons, etc. have contributed to this writer's understanding. In the last analysis, the discussion is the result of a long hard walk following after the logos, the Word of God - Jesus Christ Himself, in personal experience of the three baptisms.