

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 3

Water Baptism Unto Death and Resurrection Life

Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God has been revealed to us. We have been born again of the Spirit through repentance and remission of our sins through the Blood of Jesus Christ. Now God wants us to hear His voice (the Word) and follow Him. **John 10:27** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”*. The revelation of the Lord Jesus and forgiveness of our sins is not the end point. Instead it is the starting point of an abundant life in Christ Jesus. Jesus said: **John 10:10** *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* He desires us to enter into the fullness of His salvation for our lives. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

This should create a cry in our hearts to heed the voice of the LORD and seek answers from Him. How then, Lord do I find this abundant life? How do I become a new creature in Christ Jesus? How do I go from repentance and forgiveness to follow you? How do I follow you, Lord, when I am burdened by condemnation and shame because I can't seem to break the pattern of sin and repentance. If our hearts have this cry, we won't be led by religious tradition. Instead, the Lord will lead us by His Spirit to the next step in our journey of faith. That next step is water baptism in the name of Jesus. Water baptism is death of our old self and resurrection to a new being. **Hebrews 6:1** *“let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works (sin)”*. Clearly, the Lord intended that there would be something very powerful and important about water baptism. If we reduce water baptism to just a religious ceremony, we rob ourselves of true resurrection power in our lives. Therefore, we must understand water baptism and enter into the power of water baptism.

The Necessity of Death through Water Baptism

Water baptism is for the believer who been born again and, by faith, decides to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost. Before water baptism, we realize that we simply cannot serve the Lord in our current state and that our current state must die. Water baptism is the step of faith that we take that is necessary for us to fulfil that which was spoken of in **Hebrews 6:1** *“Let us go on unto perfection”*. But how can an imperfect person go on to perfection in Jesus? Our heavenly Father made provision for this through water baptism. His provision is very profound. Since the “old (sinful) man” cannot be perfected, he must die so that a “new man” can be resurrected. The new man is no longer burdened by the sinful nature of the old man for the old man is dead!

Water baptism is all about our death by faith and our spiritual resurrection. **John 3:5** *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”*. Although the death of ourselves sounds radical, the necessity of the death of our old self is well documented in the Bible. **Romans 8:13** *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”*

Romans 6:4 *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* **Romans 6:6** *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* **Galatians 5:17–25** *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”* This shows us the extreme contrast between the works or nature of our flesh (the old man) and the fruits or nature of the Spirit. The flesh and the Spirit are contrary to one another. If the ways of the flesh remain, we cannot do the things of the Spirit. **John 12:24** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* By water baptism, we are born of the Spirit and now we can enter into service in God’s kingdom and bring forth fruit.

The Power of Resurrection Life

If Jesus stayed on the cross or in the grave after His death, how could we have any hope in what He said or did? But, Glory, Hallelujah!, the grave did not hold Him. Jesus rose in victory over death, hell and sin so that we could believe all He said. Now, we can have the same victory with Him. We don’t have to wait until after our natural death. Jesus set the pattern for us with his death and resurrection. Without our spiritual death, there is no need for spiritual resurrection. What a glorious resurrection the LORD has prepared for us through water baptism. After water baptism, our “old man” is not raised up in the same form to try again. Instead, a “new creature” is raised up. The new man is formed in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

The scriptures speak of this glorious resurrection life. **Romans 6:4** *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* **Romans 8:11** *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”* **1 Corinthians 15:42-43** *“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.”* **Ephesians 2:5-7** *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* **Galatians 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

The revelation in these scriptures creates a powerful cry in the heart of all believers to be water baptized. This was the very thing that happened to the Ethiopian eunuch. **Acts 8:36** *“the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”* He knew the glorious new life that awaited him through death and resurrection by water baptism in Jesus Christ. **Acts 8:39** *“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”* Much rejoicing and excitement should accompany water baptism!

Authority and Instruction for the Church to Water Baptize

Now, let's look in the Holy Bible for the charge given to His Church for today. **Matthew 28:19** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”* **Acts 2 37-38** *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized 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.”* Matthew 3 has the account of how Jesus was baptized. **Matthew 3:13-17** *“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* Jesus also confirms that we are to be baptized in the same baptism as Jesus was baptized. **Matthew 20:23** *“And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:”*

There are shadows of water baptism in the Old Testament even before John and Jesus' time. In Exodus chapters 14 and 15, we see that God directed Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. They left behind their old life (old man) and crossed through the Red Sea, by God's power, to a new land (new man). Their old life was swallowed up (death) by the Red Sea. The people of Israel were separated from their old life to serve the Lord according to His provision (manna from heaven) and His ways. We also see another shadow in Exodus chapters 30 and 40. God gave instructions about the Tabernacle of the Lord. The laver (brass vessel) was placed between the congregation and the entrance to the Tabernacle (Room of Service). The priests were instructed to wash (sanctify) themselves before they entered the room of service. They also washed (sanctified) the offering for the sin of the people. If they didn't follow the instructions, they would die. Today, we must sanctify ourselves by water baptism for our service unto God

Since the Church of Acts, the disciples water baptized believers in the name of Jesus. Water baptism is necessary for our journey of faith. When we are water baptized with understanding and faith, we see the power that it brings to our lives. Water does not have the power to accomplish anything on its own. It is our faith to believe that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead also raises us from the dead. We must decide to be water baptized - to die and be raised up in newness of life – and follow our Heavenly Father's plan for our lives.

Notes:

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Romans 6: 1-14. (1) <i>“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. (8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. (10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. (11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is grace given to us to make allowance for the weakness of our flesh to continue in sin? (verse 2) 2. What is God’s intention for our lives with respect to sin? (verse 2) 3. What is God’s plan for dealing with our fleshly nature to sin? (verse 3,4) 4. By what means are we raised from death in water baptism?(verse 4) 5. Are we resurrected in the same manner as we died? (verse 4,5). 6. What is destroyed in our water baptism and what are we freed from? (verse 6,7) 7. What are we to be alive unto after water baptism? (verse 8,10,11). 8. What is the instruction from God on how we are to use the new resurrected man?(verse 12,13) 9. What no longer has dominion over us? (verse 14)

<p>Hebrews 6: 1 - 3. (1) <i>“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,</i> (2) <i>Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.</i> (3) <i>And this will we do, if God permit.’</i></p>	<p>10. What is it that we are to leave behind? (verse 1) 11. What is it that we are to go on with? (verse 1,2) 12. How do water baptism and repentance differ from one another?</p>
<p>Colossians 3: 1 – 4. (1) <i>“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.</i> (2) <i>Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.</i> (3) <i>For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.</i> (4) <i>When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”</i></p>	<p>13. How are we risen with Christ? (verse 1) 14. If we be risen with Christ what are we to seek for our lives? (verse 1,2) 15. What is our identity after water baptism? (verse 3,4) 16. What is the benefit of that identity? (verse 4)</p>

ANSWER KEY

Read Romans 6: 1-14.

1. “God forbid”
2. We are to be dead to sin so that we no longer live in sin
3. We are buried with Christ through baptism unto death and raised up from the dead as Christ is raised from the dead in newness of life
4. By the glory of the Father. A supernatural working of His Spirit
5. In newness of life. In the likeness of Jesus resurrection which is victory over sin, death and hell
6. The sinful nature (body of sin) of our old man is to die in water baptism. We are free from the hold of sin in our lives by virtue of the new resurrected man
7. We are to be alive unto God through Jesus Christ and live unto God as Jesus lived unto God
8. Sin should no longer reign in us and we should no longer follow the lusts of our flesh. Our bodies should now be yielded unto God in righteousness and no longer yielded to unrighteousness by sin
9. Sin no longer has dominion over us. We must grasp this firmly in our journey of faith as the enemy of our souls still wants us to believe that there is nothing we can do about our sinful nature and keep us in the same place of the journey (repentance). Through the new man we are free to serve the righteousness of God

Read Romans 6: 1-4

10. The principles of the doctrine of Christ and a constant state of repentance from sin (dead works)
11. We are to go on unto perfection in Christ Jesus, unto faith towards God and the doctrines of baptisms (Water Baptism, Holy Ghost Baptism), laying on of hands (imparting spiritual gifts and ministries, healings, deliverances), and resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgement.
12. Water Baptism is to sanctify or prepare us for service to God. It is not for the remission of sins which is only by the blood of Jesus. Repentance is asking for the blood of Jesus for remission of sin which comes from not serving (obeying) God.

Read **Colossians 3: 1-4**

13. We are risen with him through Water Baptism (Death and Resurrection Life)
14. Seek those things which are above. These are spiritual things not natural things and are discerned by the Word of God
15. Our lives are now hid in Christ. We identify with His Life and His purpose for our own lives.
16. When Christ shall appear (return) we shall also appear with him in glory.