

Daniel



Lesson 15-Baptism and Following the Holy Spirit

Focus: Topical/Baptism

- ❖ **One thing we can be sure of about Daniel—He was a man who followed the Spirit of God!** “An excellent Spirit was in him” the Bible says (Daniel 6:3; 5:14), “...the Spirit of the holy God...”
 - How does the Holy Spirit lead us to know God? (John 16:8, 13,14) The Holy Spirit leads us away from sin, and He points us to Jesus Christ as our Savior!
 - As we follow and obey the Holy Spirit’s leading in our lives, we can and will receive more of the Holy Spirit’s blessing and presence within us (Acts 5:32).
 - **As God’s Spirit leads us to repent of our sins, while seeking Jesus Christ, what is the next step that He leads us in? (1 Corinthians 12:13)**
- ❖ **How did people in the 1st Century experience the full “washing away” of sin?** (Matthew 3:1,2,5,6)
 - How were people sealing their decisions for Christ?
 - Was this going to be God’s appointed plan for salvation until the “end of the earth”? What were God’s appointed ministers of the gospel told to do? (Matthew 28:18-20)
- ❖ **What is the natural response for those who receive Jesus Christ?** (Acts 2:37,38)
 - Jesus said we should be born of “water and the Spirit” (John 3:5)
- ❖ **What is the saving element in this matter? (Mark 16:16)** “We are saved by grace through faith!...” (Ephesians 2:8)
 - Baptism must be an act of faith (faith leads to action and full acceptance of Christ)
- ❖ **How is Baptism like a Marriage ceremony?** (hint: The foundation of marriage is faith, trust, and love. The ceremony only seals the matter and creates a more intimate, personal, and committed relationship. It is a choice to be with someone forever)
- ❖ What about the Thief who died on the Cross next to Jesus? Jesus said he was saved (Luke 23:43), but he was never baptized. (The man was saved by faith through Jesus Christ. Being baptized was impossible for him at that time. It’s one thing to be unable, it’s another thing to reject and turn away from a commitment to God...see Luke 7:30)
- ❖ **What is baptism a symbol of? (Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12)** (Death, burial, and Resurrection)
 - It is a cleansing or washing away of the old life of sin, to mark the beginning of a new life of faithfulness to God.
 - People have tried many different forms of Baptism. For example, Immersion, Sprinkling, pouring, rose pedals, oil, etc., etc.
 - **How many forms of Baptism are acceptable according to the Bible? (Ephesians 4:5)**
 - **Why did John the Baptist baptize in the Jordan River at Aenon? (John 3:23)**
 - Did the Apostles also baptize this way? Yes. (ref. Acts 8:35-38)
 - What does the Greek word Baptizo mean? (Full immersion) This was practiced by even the Catholic Church well into the 13th Century.
 - Some say baptism by the Holy Spirit is all we need. Is this true? No. (Ref. Acts 10:44-48)

- ❖ **What example does Jesus set for us in Baptism? (Matthew 3:13-17)** *(under the water and back out; a more special connection with heaven was opened to him; empowered with the Holy Spirit for ministry; and, the Father was greatly pleased, as also He will be with us who commit to Him).*
- ❖ **What should come before Baptism?**
 - A person must believe in Jesus and his power to save “with all their heart” (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37) *(we experience God’s new desires in our heart)*
 - We must Repent of our sin; confessing and forsaking it all (Matthew 3:2,6,8; Acts 2:38)
 - Learn and follow the basic truths of God’s word (Matthew 28:19; Acts 19:2-5)
 - This being the case, should a Re-baptism ever be considered? (Acts 19:2-5) *(Yes, if the first commitment was not understood. Also, if your relation with God was broken for many years and you wanted to come back and reaffirm your commitment to Him)*
- ❖ **Considering what is needed before baptism, should infants ever be baptized?** *(We don’t find baby baptism to be appropriate Scripturally, but baby dedication is fully acceptable). Jesus was dedicated to God by his parents as a baby (Parents choice). But, later in His life, He chose to be baptized to set an example for us (His own personal choice). (ref. Luke 2:27,34; 3:21-23) Baptism must be our choice, not our parents’. Babies are not old enough to repent of their sins!*
- ❖ **According to the Bible, is Baptism connected with joining a Biblically sound church?** (Acts 2:41,47; 1 Corinthians 12:13—“By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body”)
 - Would it be strange for someone to say, “I’ll marry you, but do we have to live together?” All Christians must have fellowship with like-minded believers to grow and be nurtured—Hebrews 10:25.
 - **Note: *Baptism* is not just about joining some church on earth. Actually, it’s **about joining the family of God in Heaven!** A church on earth could be destroyed. The family of God in heaven cannot be. Since some churches recognize this, they also accept a biblical baptism from another church denomination as being valid. Usually, people are baptized in the church denomination where they would like to be a member.**
- ❖ **Once we believe the truth and choose to follow it wholeheartedly, should we ever put off our Baptism? What did Ananias tell Paul?** (Acts 22:16) *(we should never hesitate or put off following God)*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to experience the new life in Jesus Christ?_____ Would you like to have your sins washed away by following the example of Jesus in being baptized (by immersion)?_____