

Baptism Of The Spirit

- **“This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**
 - This is an incredible day, an awesome day, whereby we have much to be thankful for. Today, we celebrate baptism, but not just these that have chosen to be baptized today, but those of us that have already been baptized as well.
 - What God did for us at the cross, I hope we never get over. Our salvation, our justification, and our redemption was purchased there on the cross of Calvary & this morning I want you to see the message in baptism.
- **There is some important background to our scripture this morning that I want to spend just a moment catching you up on.**
 - God has taken Philip from Samaria down to Gaza. God has taken him from a very effective revival taking place in Samaria & has called him to the desert.
 - So Philip went down there and he saw a man riding in a chariot. Now this man was a man of great authority. He was a man who was a treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia. And he's riding in the chariot and he has the Word of God open and he is reading the prophet Isaiah.
 - Now, he has been to Jerusalem to worship, but he still has not found the Lord, and his heart is heavy & thirsting for the truth of God's Word.
 - And the Lord says to Philip, "Philip, that's the one. I want you to go now and witness to this man."
 - And, so the Bible says that Philip went, he ran, found the chariot, introduced himself, and found that the man was reading the prophet Isaiah and the man asked Philip a question. He said, "What does all of this mean?" And Philip said, What an opportunity! Let me tell you what this means. And this is where our scripture picks up this morning.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **The scripture that was read this morning is a reminder to us all of the importance of the Gospel. There are multiple directions we could go this morning,**
 - Though it is easy & convenient at times to stay within our comfort zone, there are people that need to hear about Jesus Christ.
 - Don't ever pass up an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus ... even if it's in the middle of the desert.
 - Once a person accepts Christ, they need to immediately begin obeying Christ.
- **In this passage of scripture, we see a man of great position on this earth, but his heart was longing for something more. He has no doubt heard the Word of God preached, he is opening the Word of God longing to fill this void in his life, and God sends His preacher, Philip to minister to Him.**
 - No doubt Philip had wondered, "God, why would you take me from a great revival & send me to a barren desert?" But God had a plan.
 - When Philip met this young man, he didn't waste much time on introduction or "chit chat", instead he got to the message & the Bible says he "preached unto Him Jesus."
 - And when he preached Jesus, the Bible tells us that the man believed & immediately Philip began looking for a water hole.
- **Baptism is an extremely important part of our faith. While it is not a necessary part of our salvation, it is extremely important in our growth in our walk with God.**
 - Some will argue that since baptism will not save you, it is not important, and that could not be further from the truth.
 - We can certainly be saved without being baptized; but baptism is necessary for obedience.
- **For those that would argue that baptism is not important, let me quickly remind you of how Jesus began His earthly ministry.**
 - He began His public ministry by being baptized.
 - Would you also like to guess how Jesus concluded His public ministry? By commanding baptism.

- By being baptized, we are identifying ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.

➤ **So this morning I want us to look at what the Bible says about baptism.**

1. The Method

- What is the Biblical method of baptism? Look at v.38.
- The Biblical method of baptism is complete immersion, not sprinkling, not dowsing, but complete & total immersion.
- You may say, “Pastor, is it really necessary to spend time on this?” Absolutely it is. Here’s why.
 - The Bible says they went down into the water. This was not an incidental way or an optional way. It was the Biblical way.
 - Church, the method of baptism is important because the method is wrapped up in the meaning. The method and the meaning are interwoven and you cannot change the method without destroying the meaning.

2. The Meaning

- Now, what is the meaning of baptism? Well, baptism speaks about what God did for you when He saved you.
- Turn with me to Romans 6:1-2 – “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
- When we get saved, we died to sin. Paul said, “God forbid that we who have been saved should continue to live sinful lives.”
- And, then he explains why in vv.3-6 – “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 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.”
 - When you get baptized that pictures the old person you used to be has died.
 - There was a young man who lived in Woodruff, SC, and he gave his heart to Jesus Christ, and when he did, that young man died. His name was Earl Hendrix.
 - And at that moment, the old Brother Earl died. When did he die? Well this verse tells us that actually we died some 2000 years ago when Jesus died on that cross, because his death had my name on it. He took my sin, He carried my sins to the cross, He was hung up there for me, He suffered, bled and died in agony for me and He bear my sins in his body on the cross. He paid my sin debt. He paid it in full. And, when he died, because of faith in Him, I died with Him.
- When Jesus died, I died. And, so when I got baptized, they put me beneath the water. You know what that was? That was a symbol of my funeral. We are buried with Him by baptism.
 - Thank God, Hallelujah, my sin is in the grave of God's forgetfulness. Isn't that wonderful?
 - Listen, if you are saved this morning, your sin is gone. You don't need to be haunted by the ghost of guilt. When Jesus died, you died.
 - Maybe you are here this morning & you're not saved. Can I tell you the greatest thing that you will hear all week? Your sins can be forgiven and be buried today if you will trust in Him.
- But, 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 (v.4).
 - Jesus didn't stay in that grave, He came out of that grave.
 - And when I got baptized, I didn't stay under that water. I came up out of that water.
 - And when we come up out of the water, that pictures our new life in the Lord Jesus Christ. We should walk in newness of life. And, my baptism says I have a brand new life. I am a new creature in Christ.

- I didn't come up with the old man, he is buried. I didn't come up with my sins & my shame, Jesus buried those on the cross. I came up a new creature in Christ as I commit myself to Him in humble obedience.
- But, it also speaks of your future. Look in verse five. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.
 - o One of these days I am going to die physically. One of these days they are going to put me in that grave, but I want to tell you that that grave that could not hold the Lord Jesus, and it will not be able to hold me.
 - o The Bible tells me I am going to be like Him when I am raised up from the grave, therefore, we don't need to fear death.
- Why is it that the Bible commands that we be baptized? Because God wants to constantly make real to us what happens when we get saved.
 - o We die with Christ, we're buried with Christ, we rise with Christ, we live with Christ, we're going home to be with Christ. That's what it's all about. And, baptism is the graphic illustration of that.
- Lastly, lets talk about ...

3. The Motive

- Why should we be baptized? Three reasons. Now, if you've not yet been baptized, here is the motive for baptism.
 - a. **It Confirms Your Commitment**
 - i. The Bible says, "We are buried with Him. It says, "Jesus I'm identifying myself with you, openly and publicly." You say, Does it make you a Christian? No. But it sure does show you're a Christian.
 - ii. You see this ring I wear right here. This ring means that I love my wife & I am committed to her. It doesn't make me married just b/c I wear it, but it shows I'm married and it shows I'm not ashamed, to let everybody know I'm married. I belong to another person. And when you get baptized you're saying I belong to Jesus.
 - iii. When He was baptized, He identified himself with us and when we get baptized, we identify ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. **It Shows Your Obedience**
 - i. Nowhere in the Bible is baptism a suggestion. It is a command.
 - 1. [Matthew 28:19-20](#). "Go ye therefore and teach all nations **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, **whatsoever I have commanded you** and lo I'm with you alway even to the end of the world."
 - ii. Many Christians are lacking in their Christian joy because they've not been obedient.
 - iii. Perhaps even some today are unhappy b/c they have searched for everything to bring them joy only to find that without Christ, there is no lasting joy & peace.
 - iv. In Acts 8, after this man was baptized, the Bible says that when Philip left him, he went on his way rejoicing.
- The very motive for baptism, if nothing else, should be that Jesus commanded it. I want to say again, that while baptism is not necessary to salvation, it is necessary to obedience. Baptism shows that you belong to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

➤ **Now let me say in closing, baptism is an act of obedience AFTER you are saved. But perhaps some of you this morning need to be obedient to Christ first as it relates to your salvation.**

- o All of the water in the world will never come close to doing what Jesus can do for you. You must first be obedient & accept Him as Lord of your life.
- o Hebrews 7:25 – "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

➤ **Baptism is a glorious picture of what God can do for you today if you will trust in Him.**

- o You don't have to carry the burden of your sins any longer.

- You don't have to worry about what will happen when death comes your way, you can be certain of your salvation today if you will trust in Him.
- "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.