

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – More About My Baptism - Lesson 3

UNDERSTANDING MY BAPTISM...

1. My baptism placed me into Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

(26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) 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. (Galatians 3:26–28)

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ... (Ephesians 1:3)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

2. Jesus instructed the Apostles to make disciples of people from all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)

(18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:18–20)

(15) And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15–16)

Notes: Share the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch of Acts 8:26-39.

(36) Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” (37) Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:36–37)

3. At the end of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2, what two things did he command the people to do?
Repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:37-42)
 - a. Notice that the gift of the Holy Spirit is given at baptism.
 - b. Discussion: How does the gift of the Spirit today differ from New Testament times?

(37) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (38) Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

(41) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:37–42)

Notes: *Understanding the purpose and our relationship to the Holy Spirit can be complicated and confusing. Many people disagree on the Spirit's part in our Christian life. At this point there are two points we need to understand:*

(1) The gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Apostles gave them miraculous abilities for furtherance of the gospel message.

(2) Now that the gospel has been fully delivered (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), the Spirit helps us in different ways. For instance, He helps us when we pray (Romans 8:26) and when we worship (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16)

4. The first time that disciples (followers of Christ) were called Christians is found in Acts 11:26.
 - a. SEARCH: How many times does the name "Christian" appear in the New Testament? NKJV = 3
 - b. Why should I desire to be called a Christian? (Acts 4:12)

There is no other name given by people in which salvation is found.

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." (Acts 10:43)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

5. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? Open Discussion
6. "But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them. (2 Timothy 3:14)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

7. The New Testament contains 27 books.
8. List the 5 categories of books in the New Testament:
 - (1) Gospels (2) History (3) Paul's Letters (4) Other Letters (5) Prophecy

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

9. We should never say, “I am tempted by God.” (1:13)
a. God cannot be tempted with evil.

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (James 1:13)

- b. What do we discover about God’s character from 1 John 1:5? (also see James 1:17)
God is light and there is no darkness in His character.

(5) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5–7)

10. Whose fault is it when we sin? (1:14-15) Our own fault

(14) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (15) Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14–15)

Notes: Whose fault was it that Adam sinned? True, He was influenced by Eve who was influenced by the serpent. But it was ultimately and finally Adam’s own decision to eat of the forbidden fruit. As the bible says...

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12)

11. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. (1:16-18)

(16) Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. (17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (18) Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (James 1:16–18)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

12. _____
