
The Process of Baptism (Remission, Transformation, and Regeneration)

Witnessing To The Culture

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Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: The Process of Baptism (Remission, Transformation, and Regeneration)

Previous Messages:

- **Overcoming the Sin of Silence** (Shame/Transform, Ignorance/Word, Fear/Anointing)
- **Going beyond the Zone** (Comfort/Home; Familiarity/Kin; Safety/Country)
- **The Impartation of God** (Will of God, Word of God, Spirit of God)

Lesson Text

Matthew 28:19 (AV)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: 38 (AV)³⁸ 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.

Romans 12:1–2 (AV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Introduction

In Matthew 28, Jesus gives us a commission (that is charge, command, or charge) to do three things in order to be an effective witness:

1. **“To Go”**; getting out of our comfort zone.
2. **“To Teach”**; impartation of the blessings of God
3. **“To Baptize”** continually persuade, influence, encourage, and change.

Last week we looked at “TO TEACH”: **The Impartation of God:**

- 2 Timothy 1:⁶ Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
- Impartation of the Will of God (Memorize)
- Communication of the Word of God (Mentor)
- Demonstration of the Spirit of God (Model)

Now the final thing we will look at concerning the Commission is “TO BAPTIZE”!

To Baptize means to purify or cleanse spiritually, especially by a purging experience. The immersion in water, symbolizing purification and regeneration for admission to the Church.

Whereas many Christians have focused on the ***physical*** acts of baptizing in water, or literal ***procedure*** of what name you should use when baptizing; they miss the ***purpose*** of why Jesus wanted us to baptize.

To understand the purpose of baptism, we must look at the context in which it’s given in scripture.

The context of Baptizing in Matthew is:

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- Matthew 28:20 (AV)²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

The context of Baptizing in Acts is:

- Acts 2:42 (AV)⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

What the context teaches us is that the focus is not on water (because if you're a dry devil before baptism, you will just be a wet devil after baptism), nor is the focus on procedure.

The context of baptism is on teaching and continuing in the process of becoming a Christian.

The process is about a transformation from who you were before baptism, to who God calls you to be after Baptism.

Romans 6:3–4 (AV)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.

So baptism is more than water and a formula, but being purified by the remission of sin, changed by the transformation of the mind, and empowered by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

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Baptism is about Transforming the Body, Soul, and Spirit.

I. Baptizing the Body Through Remission (Behavior)

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:

The first stage of baptizing is witnessing and teaching the work of the Father.

The work of the Father is about the will of God. It's about keeping His commandments.

John 6:³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

But we struggle to do work of the Father, keep His commandments because of Sin.

Psalms 51:5 (AV)⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 7:21 (AV)²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

We must Baptize the Body for the Remission of Sin

Acts 2:38 (AV)³⁸ 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.

Remission is the cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty. In order to reconcile with the Father, and do His will, the cost and payment of our sins must be remitted.

When you have been baptized and your sins have been forgiven, you stop focusing on your will, but on the will of Father.

Luke 22:42 (AV)⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

John 9:4 (AV)⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

II. Baptizing the Soul through Transformation (Thoughts)

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:

The next stage of baptizing is witnessing and teaching the work of the Son

The work of the Son (Jesus Christ) is about the Word of God. It's about changing our soul, that is our mind (what we think), our will (what we do), and our emotions (what we feel).

Because of the sin within us, and the world around us, our soul has been shaped into that which does not please God.

We don't think like God, we don't feel what we should, and we certainly don't do what he wants.

1 John 2:15–16 (AV)¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

We must Baptize the Soul by Transforming the Mind

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

The mind is transformed by renewing it with the Word of God

Psalms 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Philippians 2:5 (AV)⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AV)¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

III. Baptizing of the Spirit through Regeneration (Power)

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**:

To be an effective witness:

- We must Baptize the Body for the Remission of Sin
- We must Baptize the Soul by Transforming the Mind
- Finally, We must Baptize the Spirit by the Regeneration of the Holy Ghost

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Acts 2:38 (AV)³⁸ 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.***

All our lives we've been a slave to our human spirit, powerless against Satan and his unclean spirit. Victims of principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness, and spiritual wickedness.

We are Troubled, Perplexed, Persecuted, and Cast down, and in our own power, we're defeated.

But when our spirit is baptized in the Regeneration of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered with the power of God

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Luke 24:49 (AV)⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.