

THREE BIBLICAL BAPTISMS PT 2

Understanding your spirit man

Last week we began to study the three biblical baptisms that are found in scripture.

1) The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ.

2) A disciple baptizes us in water.

3) Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.

We started by looking at salvation, when the Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ.

We looked at what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do.

John 14:20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

Then we looked at a few of the 140 plus times that Paul described our salvation by using *in Christ*, *in him* and *in whom* statements and we realized that they are all referencing this amazing biblical truth that Jesus came to restore what Adam lost, the image and likeness of God.

We saw that God put everything that came through Adam upon Jesus on the cross, then he exchanged it for the nature of God that was in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Then we saw that after the ascension of Jesus every redemptive promise was referred to as a past tense accomplishment.

2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

The bottom line is that salvation results in us being made complete, or whole.

Here is the question we need to answer, if Jesus said that he finished the work he came to do and the God who cannot lie sent the Spirit of truth to confirm it in scripture, why do we have such a hard time believing God's word?

Understanding our true design

For most of us what we have been taught about our design is that we are two part beings: the outer person (the body), and the inner person (the combination of spirit/soul).

The Bible actually teaches that just like God you are a three part being.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your inner man, the real you, is your spirit. You have a soul, which is your mind, will and emotions (personality), then you have the outer man, your body.

Biblically you are a spirit that has a soul that lives in a body.

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

If your spirit and soul were one, it could not be divided.

Paul says you are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Think about both the tabernacle and the temple, they both had three parts. The outer court, the inner court and the Holy of Holies where the presence of God dwelt.

The question is, can we find this in God's original design?

Genesis 1:27 NKJV So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

God is a spirit, so his image is a spirit. God called Adam man, when only his spirit existed.

I don't know how much time existed between Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:7, whether it was 30 seconds or a thousand years. God called Adam a man before he had a physical body.

Then in Genesis 2:7 NKJV And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

God breathed life into Adam and he became a living being with a spirit, soul and a body.

Your true identity.

God is a Spirit and He lives in an eternal spiritual realm.

God created out of the spiritual realm a physical realm called earth.

We are the only created beings that were designed to function in both the spiritual and physical realms.

God gave you a soul (mind, will and emotions) so that you can function in the mental part of the natural realm using logic and reason.

God gave you a body so you can function in the physical part of the natural realm using your five natural senses: see, taste, hear, smell and feel.

God gave you a spirit so that you can function in the spiritual realm using faith.

Faith is the ability to believe what you cannot see.

One of the reasons that we Christians are not receiving the promises of God is because of Satan's deception in this area.

Satan has deceived us into using the wrong tools to receive from him.

(Tree example)

Satan has deceived us into using our natural tools of logic and reason to interpret scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God's word is spiritual so it can't be received with the natural mind.

Satan has deceived us into only believing what we can see, taste, hear, smell and feel. We have to have physical evidence first, then we will believe.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Jesus said that you have to believe you have it first, then you will have it.

Jesus speaks of spiritual re-birth.

John 3:5-8 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Who you are in the spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 He who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit with Him**.

Hebrews 2:11 KJV For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are **all of one**: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.

The phrase "All of one" means one to the exclusion of another.

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world**.

Romans 8:17 TPT And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit **all that he is and all that he has**.

Colossians 2:9-10 AMPC For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. **10 And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]**. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

The moment you are born again, your spirit and God's spirit become one in Christ, and you reach full spiritual stature.

Spiritual reality

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Jesus is telling us that his word is revealing spiritual truth, what is true in your born again spirit.

If you want to know what is going on in your soul, you consult your emotions.

If you want to know what is going on in your body, you can look into a physical mirror.

The only way to know what is going on in your spirit is to consult the spiritual mirror of God's word.

Every redemptive promise is referring to what happened the moment your spirit was rejoined to the source of life. That is why they are referred to as past tense accomplishments.

Salvation is a one time spiritual transaction with many physical benefits.

If this is true and I did receive everything I need for life and Godliness in my spirit, why am I not experiencing where it matters, in my physical life?

Key truth: It was only your spirit that was born again.

When you got born again your soul, (mind will and emotions) did not get born again or made new. You still had the same thought patterns that had created your belief system that shaped your life experiences.

Even though your spirit is just like Jesus, Satan has convinced you that all of the effects of sin are normal and to be expected.

When you got born again you did not receive a new body. If you were thin before or tall before, you were the same after you were born again.

Not understanding spiritual reality is one of the greatest sources of confusion and frustration in the life of believers.

You read these past tense redemptive promises and you look for them in the wrong places.

You read that you are holy, righteous and blameless and you check your soul and Satan reminds you of what you said to your spouse last night, or what you thought when the person cut you off in traffic and you get confused and maybe even condemned.

God's plan for experiencing the abundant life.

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

There is a great truth we need to understand here. He tells us in order for our lives to prove what the will of God is we have to do something with our bodies and our soul (mind). What is missing from this teaching? He doesn't say that something has to be done with our spirit. Why? Because it is already just like Jesus.

The key to receiving from God is to renew your mind to the truths of who you already are and what you already have in your born again spirit. Next time I will show how God planned for this to happen.