

THREE BIBLICAL BAPTISMS

I know that for many of you this sounds strange, for some you might even be thinking about heresy. For most of us Evangelicals we have been taught that there is only one baptism, Water. For our Charismatic/Pentecostal friends they have been taught of two baptisms, water, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I want to teach you from the word of God that there are three different and distinct baptisms that God intended all believers to experience.

- 1) The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ. (salvation)
- 2) The disciple baptizes us in water.
- 3) Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.

The Greek meaning for baptize is to plunge, immerse.

Let's look at the first one.

The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 TLB We have been baptized **into Christ's body** by the one Spirit, and have all been given that same Holy Spirit.

We have to start by understanding God's predetermined purpose for every person.

Romans 8:29 NKJV For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the **image** of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The image of God represents the nature of God. Jesus came to restore the image of God in man, so that the earth can see what God is truly like.

God's original design for man.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.

God made man in His image so that there would be a physical expression of his nature on the earth.

If you were to use one word to describe God's original design for man, you would say whole or complete. Nothing lacking and nothing missing.

When Adam was deceived and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, sin entered into the human experience. Sin in its simplest term is the separation from God's nature. Through sin the nature of God that was placed in him was lost and he became incomplete, and everyone born after him was born incomplete.

God sent Jesus to restore what was lost through Adam. What was lost through the first Adam was restored through the last Adam (Jesus).

Jesus describes the role of the Holy Spirit.

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

When the Holy Spirit comes you will be joined together in me. And the image and likeness of God will be restored in man.

Jesus' prayer for us.

John 17:20-23 AMPC Neither for these alone do I pray [it is not for their sake only that I make this request], but also for all those who will ever come to believe in (trust in, cling to, rely on) Me through their word and teaching, 21 That they all may be one, [just] as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe and be convinced that You have sent Me. 22 I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one [even] as We are one: 23 I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and **perfectly united**, that the world may know and [definitely] recognize that You sent Me and that You have loved them [even] as You have loved Me.

Jesus is saying that being born again or saved is to be in union or reunited with the Father who is the source of life.

Jesus describes eternal life as being reunited or one with the Father.

John 14:1-6 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

We have been taught that Jesus is speaking of heaven or eternal life, what he is talking about is being one with the Father.

John 17:3 NKJV And this is eternal life, that they may **know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Jesus is saying that eternal life is to live in union with the Father. Genesis 4:1, Luke 1:34

Over 140 times in the Epistles Paul uses the phrases In Christ, in him, in whom. All of these speak of our new creation life.

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

When you are placed or baptized into Christ you become a new creation.

First it says that old things have passed away, notice the past tense reference.

What happened?

Romans 6:5-6 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

When you were united together in Christ's death, the old man with the nature of Adam was crucified with Christ.

Then Paul states that all things have become new.

When Jesus arose victorious over sin, Satan, and death, you were joined together in the likeness of his life.

Jesus said that he came to give us life.

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Where is this life found?

John 1:4 **In Him** was life, and the life was the light of men.

Colossians 3:3-4 Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your **true life** is hidden away in God **in Christ**. 4 And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

Everything that God intended for man to be, to have, and to experience was placed in Adam and it was lost through his disobedience.

So, God put everything that he wanted us to be, to have and to experience "IN CHRIST" then he baptized or joined us together with him.

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.

Every redemptive promise was fulfilled the moment you were placed **IN CHRIST**.

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].

Ephesians 1:3-4 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**, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

God's original plan.

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man **in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 **Then God blessed them**, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The moment you were baptized into Christ you received everything you need for life and Godliness.

2 Peter 1:3 As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

The God who says that it is impossible for Him to lie says that the moment you were baptized into Christ you were restored back to the source of abundant life! You received the mind of Christ, the nature of Christ, the fullness of Christ, the power of Christ, the anointing of Christ, the authority to use the name of Christ, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the keys to the kingdom and the armor of God.

That sounds like completeness to me.

We need to heed the warning of Paul.

1 Corinthian 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

What was the deception of Eve and what does it have to do with us?

Genesis 3:4-5 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan deceived her into thinking there was something she had to do to receive what she already possessed by grace, the image and likeness of God.

The Gospel that has been preached to us is that your sin (behavior) has separated you from God; Jesus came to pardon your sin so that when you die you will experience eternal life.

So, God is the author of life, yet you have to die to receive the benefits of his salvation?

Your sins were pardoned, yet you were left IN ADAM (incomplete), a sinner saved by grace? God gave you a book full of principles to apply so that **you** can make yourself complete?

The deception is that **you** have to do something to receive what you already possess by grace.

If I have been placed in Christ and I have received everything that I need for life and godliness, if all this is true and I have been made complete, why am I not experiencing it? We don't understand spiritual reality.