

## **Basics of the Christian Faith**

For a new believer it is obviously very important to teach from scripture; not just sharing what we think to be true!! (See testimony at the end). So let's look at some scriptures from the Gospels.

**Mark 1 v 15** Jesus speaking: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Repent means = to go in a different direction; stop doing things your own way and turn to the Lord and do things His way

Believe means = have an active faith in Jesus - sadly there are many who go to church, read their Bibles but are not active believers as they have never truly prayed a prayer repenting of doing things their own way - the result is they have no relationship with Jesus.

**John 1 v 12 - 13** "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Here Jesus is talking to a Pharisee and ruler in Israel thought to be in his early 70's.

**John 3 v 3 - 7** "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Nicodemus is clearly thinking purely physically but Jesus is speaking spiritually!

**John 3 v 16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

In the Greek 'believes' is an active continuous present tense' = he who goes on believing.

**James 2 v 17 - 18** "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

The word Gospel means Good News and we need the FULL Gospel:

1. Repent from dead works
2. Faith toward God
3. Be water baptised by immersion - Jesus was our example even though He had never sinned - **Matt 3 v 15** "But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.
4. Baptism in Holy Spirit

## **8 Reasons to be water baptized:**

1. Water baptism is not a suggestion but a commandment by God.
2. The conditions to receive baptism are repentance and faith.
3. New believers should be baptized as soon as possible after salvation.
4. Water baptism is by full immersion, is done only once, and is always for adults or children old enough to believe and repent. It is never for infants.
5. Water baptism is performed by 1 or 2 believers who are already water baptised and full of the Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues.
6. Those baptising you will say I/we baptise you in the name of God the Father, God the Son Jesus and God the Holy Spirit
7. Water baptism is an outward act depicting what has already happened inside the heart and life of the new believer.
8. Baptism depicts union with Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection.

While Water Baptism is a cleansing in that it washes away the filth of the flesh, it is also a cleansing of us from sin. Water baptism is a public declaration of the new believer's faith in Christ.

## **Baptism in Holy Spirit:**

Note: Even Jesus needed the Holy Spirit as recorded here;

**Luke 3 v 16** "John (the Baptist) answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

**Luke 3 v 21 - 22** "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Jesus having come to earth to live exactly as we do, needed the Holy Spirit too. All four Gospels record Jesus being baptised with Holy Spirit. **Matt 3 v 11; Mark 1 v 8; Luke 3 v 16; John 1 v 33** "I (John the Baptist) did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"; do read them all and the scriptures around them but you will see that John the Baptist makes it very clearly that it is Jesus who baptized with Holy Spirit!

**Acts 10 v 38** "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

So, if Jesus needed the Holy Spirit, what or who makes us think that we don't need Him?

Let's look at a few more scriptures relating to this:

**John 14 v 16 - 17** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

Note: Jesus say to His disciples, He is WITH you - that is because they have repented and chosen to follow Him and they are water baptised; but then Jesus goes on to say, He shall be IN you. He is truly only IN us when we are filled with His Holy Spirit.

**Luke 24 v 49** "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

**Acts 1 v 8** "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Note the word POWER in both these verses - and what happened?

**Acts 2 v 4** "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

But then Peter, the frightened man who denied knowing Jesus, stands up and gives his first ever sermon - do read it, but in **Acts 2 v 38 - 39** "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. 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."

IF you do not immediately after water baptism receive the Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues, then pray and ask Jesus to please baptise you in Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues - and others around you can pray in tongues for you too.

I have had the joy both here in UK of relating this to someone who immediately on asking Jesus to baptise her with tongues was away, she needed no prayer to encourage from me. The same happened over there in Malawi to a church going lady who had gone forward for prayer for the baptism in her church but nothing had happened. She prayed in my presence for Jesus to baptise her with the gift of tongues and she was away!!!

Do not of course try to speak in any language you know as you cannot speak 2 languages at the same time !! - but open your mouth and if necessary start to make sounds - Holy Spirit will give the words but it is your voice He uses.

Then look at **Acts ch 10 and 11; and ch 19 v 1 - 6** - clearly here in **Acts 19** Paul immediately noticed something missing.

Then go back to **Mark 16 v 15 - 20**; This is the Great Commission to every single one of us.

**Testimony:** I was at a social gathering and a lady said to me, '*my father has just been to visit a medium*'! I showed horror and said that was awful and dangerous. She was angry with me. The next day I visited her with my Bible and said please read Deuteronomy ch 18 v 10 - 11 which she did. She then looked at me and very emotionally said, '*Oh my goodness, I must tell my dad!*' That's the power of God's Word not ours!!!!