



HOLINESS

A Divine Way of Living



St Davids
congregational church
041-3601127
www.stdavids.org.za
Visit our Face Book page.

LESSON 10

Part 1

Belief Baptism Behaviour

There was a difference between believing Jews and unbelieving Jews. Not all Jews believed. The history of Israel is one of resistance and stubbornness. God allowed them to be chastised by their enemies to bring them to repentance and a vibrant belief in the God of their forefathers.

John the Baptist

God ordained that John the Baptist should call Israel back to repentance and as a sign of their repentance they should be baptised because God's Kingdom was pending.

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John's baptism was a call for repentance. Jesus, said John, would baptise with the Spirit and fire.

What is the Spirit baptism?

Our English word "baptism" is derived from a Greek word "βάπτισμα" which means to immerse or to submerge. In ancient Greek communities to baptise was to dip an item into water. In particular, the word "baptism" could be defined as something taking on the quality of that into which it is immersed – the dying of garments meant that the item would take on the colour of the dye in the water.

In Old Testament according to the Law of Moses, his brother Aaron, as the High Priest and Aaron's sons as priests, needed to be washed (baptised) in clean water before they could serve in the temple or tabernacle. When John the Baptist came preaching that the Kingdom was at hand, he called the Jewish nation to repentance and to be baptised. Remember that God's promise was that they would become a nation and kingdom of priests (See Deut. 7:6, 1Peter

2:9, Ex. 29:4). For them to serve in this office the law demanded ritual baptism. That's the reason why Jesus was baptised to meet the Mosaic Law requirement before He started His earthly ministry.

The water baptism ritual was part of the commission Jesus gave His disciples to accompany the Gospel of the Kingdom. The rite was preparatory for God's Kingdom on earth – Matt. 28:19.

The Gospel of the Grace of God, as revealed in the writings of Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, excluded ritual washings and the apostle under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit declared that God had not sent him to baptise but to preach the Gospel – 1 Corinthians 1:17.

What Gospel did Paul preach? From Romans to Philemon, Paul emphasised a Spirit baptism that was waterless, using the definition of baptism to mean “taking on the quality and characteristics of that into which we are immersed.” Paul asserts that baptism of the Spirit means that the very moment one consciously surrenders oneself to God, at conversion, the Holy Spirit immerses us into the Body of Christ. It is this baptism that unites all Christians. No other form of baptism can unite believers.

Christians are those who are immersed into Christ.

Reconsider the Following:

Romans 6:1-4 *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 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.”*

Ephesians 1:13 *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”*

Ephesians 4:4-5 *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, **one baptism.**”*

The one baptism of Ephesians could only be referring to the Spirit baptism.