

## **The Baptisms of John and Jesus (Initiations of Renewal)**

If we want renewal in our lives then we have baptisms to go through. No renewal or revival in the past has occurred without them. But they normally mean that we have to pay a price for renewal in our lives and our church. Baptism is a symbol of death and death is a painful experience. But baptism is also, conversely, a symbol of life. Thus, death and life are integrated in the same symbol.

We often want life, blessings and all the good things that God wants us to have but we don't want the means by which he gives them to us – because those means are often painful.

Matthew 3: 11 – 17

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. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

Verse 11 “The Message” - I'm baptising you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life.

### **1) John baptised with water**

- John baptised with water for repentance or (as The Message puts it) turning your old life in for a kingdom life.
- Romans 6: 3 & 4 tells us that “all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- John's baptism merely prepared people for Christ and those who were baptised by John were re-baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus
  - Acts 19: 1 – 5 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”  
They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”  
So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”  
“John’s baptism,” they replied.  
Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Baptism into Jesus is significant of our union in his death and new life and not merely an attempt to save ourselves from sin and “turn over a new leaf” as was John's baptism.
- It is imperative that we are born again and participate in the death and life of Christ for salvation.
- Jesus went through the waters of baptism “to fulfill all righteousness.”

- This was a time of commissioning Jesus for the ministry he was about to begin. Thus, it was the beginning of his purpose of coming to earth. Something new was about to happen.

## **2) Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit**

- Baptism in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed in the Holy Spirit. It referred to both the indwelling Holy Spirit and the anointing of the Holy Spirit for power to be Jesus' witnesses (Acts 1: 8).
- Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit. He did not need the Holy Spirit to come upon him to live a Holy life.
- We are commanded in Ephesians 5: 18 to be filled with the Spirit. Why would born again believers who have been filled with the Holy Spirit when we believed need to be exhorted to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - Filled with fear – filled with the Spirit i.e controlled by fear or controlled by the Spirit
  - Acts 2 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost
  - Acts 4: 8 “Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them
  - Acts 4: 31 “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”
- If we want renewal in our lives and to be effective witnesses, we need to give control of our lives over to the Holy Spirit and be filled with the Holy Spirit to do what God requires of us.

## **3) Jesus baptizes with fire**

- We often misunderstand the works of God and think that life is going to be easy and glorious after we come to Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus also baptises us with fire. He burns up the chaff in our lives and refines us as gold is refined in the fire.
- He isn't only interested in what he can do through us – he is interested in us and that we become like him.
- Sometimes he has to bring the fire – hardship – when we aren't obedient and his will isn't being accomplished.
- Jesus commissioned the disciples to go and preach the gospel in all the world. In Acts 2 they were filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the gospel in Jerusalem. By the end of Acts 7 they were still all in Jerusalem and so in Acts 8 there was a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. In Acts 11: 19 – 21 many Greeks turned to the Lord in Antioch – the hub of Paul's mission to the Gentiles.
- Fire takes us our eyes off ourselves and puts them on God and his purposes.
- He disciplines those he loves.
- Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.
  - Matthew 4: 1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**JESUS ALWAYS TAUGHT BY EXAMPLE AND NOT BY WORDS ALONE!**