

Armed For War – Lesson 8: The Doctrine of Baptisms

(**Hebrews 6:1-2**) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

5 Distinct Baptisms:

1. Water
2. Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost
3. Fire
4. Death
5. Suffering

Baptize (baptizo): To immerse

1. Water

(**Matthew 3:4-6**) And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were **baptized** of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Baptism is an act of humility. It is not just symbolic. There is a power of humility in such an act to transform your life. You are making a choice to die to who you are and accept the authority of Jesus Christ from that point forward.

Notice that Scripture says they came “confessing their sins”. They were publicly admitting their sins and taking responsibility for their own wickedness before God. Water baptism is always associated with the confession of sins.

- Forgiveness comes after a confession:

(**Psalms 32:5**) I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

(**1 John 1:9**) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession is not just guilt. We understand the power of positive profession, but do we comprehend the enormous power of confessing the negative aspects of our lives? Not excuses, reasons, purposes or partial blame; taking personal responsibility for our own actions.

~ Deliverance from the bondage of our past comes when we take responsibility for even our small role in committing sin (even if we were victims). ~

2. Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost

(**Acts 1:5, 8**) For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. . . . But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

~ Holy Ghost Baptism is not tongues! It is immersion in God's Spirit. ~

Witness (martus): martyr; one who is willing to die for what they believe.

A witness who was found to have given a false testimony was punishable under penalty of death. If someone was a witness against another, they were putting their life at stake. When we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost we receive the power to die to ourselves.

If water baptism is the decision to live for God, the Holy Ghost is the ability to execute that decision.

3. Fire

(Genesis 19:24) Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

(Matthew 3:11) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Fire is judgment and purification. The baptism of fire will pierce, penetrate and expose the deepest hidden impurities. The return of Christ is called the Refiner's Fire. Fire consumes. It allows our sins to be dealt with and put away.

4. Death

(Romans 6:3-4) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Death is when we relinquish our life and in the process the Resurrection of His Life becomes active.

5. Suffering

(Mark 10:36-39) And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

(Luke 12:50) But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

This baptism has to do with what we must suffer in order to fulfill our calling.

(Acts 9:16) For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

We must take up OUR CROSS!