

## (W.O.R.S.H.I.P) - Prioritize

(\*\*Review previous lesson\*\*)

**Prioritize – put God first in everything. Start by receiving water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

### ***A) WATER BAPTISM***

Water baptism is a step of obedience that publicly indicates we believe and want to follow Jesus for the rest of our lives.

Water baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, according to the command of our Lord, is an outward sign of the inward work God begins in a believer upon acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior. It is a beautiful and solemn emblem reminding us that even as our Lord died upon the cross, so we reckon ourselves now dead unto sin - our old nature nailed to the cross with Him; and that as Christ was raised from the dead, we, too, rise to a new life in Him as we come up out of the water.

#### **1) Is water baptism required for salvation?**

No. Water baptism does not save us, does not forgive sins, nor is it required for salvation. Consider the words of the thief on the cross:

‘Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”’  
Luke 23:42

And the words of Jesus:

‘Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”’  
Luke 23:43

As you can see, the thief on the cross died without getting baptized, yet Jesus said that on that very day he would be with Jesus in paradise! Of course, it is pretty clear from the rest of Scripture that salvation is dependent on faith in Jesus alone – nothing else. No good works, no baptism, no other deeds.

If baptism were essential for salvation, Paul would not have stated:

“I am thankful I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius.”  
1 Corinthians 1:14

Paul, the great apostle preaching salvation in Christ, would not have said such a thing if baptism were a requirement for salvation. He would have wanted to baptize everybody!

## **2) How does one get baptized?**

We follow the example of Jesus who was immersed in water. The word “baptize” comes from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to immerse.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water....” Matthew 3:16a

## **3) When should one get baptized?**

As soon as possible after a person declares Christ as their Lord and Savior.

## **4) What are the requirements to be baptized?**

Only that one believe in Christ. Absolutely nothing else is required.

Read this passage of Scripture that is basically a summary of everything just discussed:

The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?”<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.<sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”<sup>37</sup> [m]And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”<sup>38</sup> And he ordered the [m]chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

**Acts 8:34-38**

## **B) BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **1) We receive the Holy Spirit the moment we believe in Christ and are saved:**

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”  
Ephesians 1:13

### **2) Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit**

‘Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized <sup>14</sup>with the Holy Spirit <sup>15</sup>not many days from now.”’ Acts 1:4-5

### **3) What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

It is the Holy Spirit coming upon you in a mighty and glorious fullness to:

\*Glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus

\*Empower you, the believer, to live a life fiercely given to Him with signs and wonders!

\*Equip you for fishing for souls including in your missionary field – the area 6ft around you:

“But you **will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

For us here in DFW today, we could say that we will be His witnesses in “Dallas/Fort Worth, surrounding states, and to the end of the earth.”

### **4) Miraculous things can happen when receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The believer has every reason to expect His incoming to be in the same miraculous manner as we see in Acts 2:4-11 where people immediately and miraculously spoke in human, foreign languages they didn’t know before:

“Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

Acts 2:11

### **5) Tongues are utterances spoken to God.**

Some that do not believe in the gift of tongues point out that people received human languages as we see in Acts 2:4-11. This is only half the truth. The other half is that tongues are not understandable but are utterances spoken to God as we see below:

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 14:2

### **6) People received the gift of tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them**

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.” Acts 19:6

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup>All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.”  
Acts 10:44-46

Prophesying is simply delivering a message to other(s) given directly by God. A gentile is anyone that is not of Jewish descendance.

### **7) The apostle Paul himself wanted all to have the gift of tongues**

“Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.” 1 Corinthians 14:5

In conclusion, you can expect to receive power when you are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Remember Ephesians 1:13 at the beginning of this lesson: you received the Holy Spirit as your seal of salvation when you very first believed in Jesus. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time; it is as we said: being empowered by the Spirit to live for God. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can receive the gift of speaking in tongues.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- \* What stands out to you the most about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- \* Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? If not, you can be prayed for at church!
- \* If you have not been baptized in water, are you ready to be baptized?