

Your Baptism Day, Remember!

*Baptism...Dying of your old self.
Isn't that what it's all about?
And then of course your birth—
Your new birth with Christ
And with the Father. Remember!*

With Passover quickly approaching, I thought it appropriate to reexamine the commitment established on that special day of our baptism.

For many believers, it's been 5, 10, 20, 30 or more years since being immersed in baptism!

Leading up to our baptism and immediately following it, we seem to become keenly aware of word-meanings and their context within our thoughts and actions. But as the time span lengthens from our special day, we can often become more complacent, allowing our moral standards articulated so clearly in baptism to slip through the cracks. I personally chose what I believe is a manageable five year assessment interval. Let's hope that this first 5 years would offer a feasible amount of time for me, and for most of you, to assess our compliance in maintaining a moral-centered lifestyle. Unfortunately, as a realist; we're creatures of bad habits. We slip. We self-justify. I did. I remember!

Thus the premise of this study is to get us back to continuously examine ourselves. Remember the zeal that we all had as we anticipated the day of our baptism? Are we just as zealous today? Our words. . .our thoughts. . .our actions. We want to be asking ourselves – would I be saying or doing these things if the Father or His Son were in our presence? This study will focus on the significance of remembering your baptism. What it meant to you as it was happening, what it means to each one of us today. Remember!

I will point out here that this is not a question...It's not (Remember?) It's Remember! A statement of affirmation if you will. How very blessed you felt, and are...How you wanted to be at your best for Him...no cursing...no swearing...helping others...giving up things ...your bad habits...dying of the old...putting on the new person! Throughout this study, we will touch on these topics, and then some, to recapture the washing of our old selves. Remember!

First, the word Baptized:

#907. baptizw baptizo, bap-tid'-zo from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to makewhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism:--Baptist, baptize, wash.

What are we washing away and why are we washing?

The importance of Baptism:

Acts 2:37~41 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

So as we see right from the start, you knew it was a commitment! There was a cost! Only IF there was repentance were you able to be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism itself is a gift but at a cost... You have to count the cost! You have to understand, what is Baptism? Let's go have a closer look...

Luke 14:25~35 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?** 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. 34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Verse 28 states clearly that you must understand the cost and do what it takes inside of you to run to the finish line...or at the least, be very much wanting to do so! It's what you're striving for, more and more – all the time! You're being given this opportunity of baptism. It's your loyalty to God. You're pledging your allegiance to God.

Matthew 28:16~20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*To observe **all** things...*

That you are striving to be Christ-like, washing away the old self and putting on the new man.

Ephesians 4:20~24 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Baptism washes away our sins allowing us to live a life committed to God. That is why baptized people are called "born again." Being baptized means that we are reborn into a whole new person. We're cleansed from all the sins that we committed against God. Total immersion water baptism (discussed later) is more than just for joining a new religion; it means that we admit our sins and have the willingness to repent and change. Also, it requires full faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose blood was shed for the penalty of sin, affording the forgiveness of our sins.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Being baptized means entering into a life-long commitment; it is meant to establish the connection between us and the Father. By being cleansed through baptism, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to work freely through us and in us, protecting us against the works of the devil. "As water washes dirt from our flesh, so His Holy Spirit washes the filth of sin from our souls."

Colossians 2:11,12 (Sign of our commitment) 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Now without getting into all the commandments which would add a hundred pages to this study, I'll just touch on things that have a tendency of 'slipping through the cracks.'

Our Words:

Proverbs 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Your Baptism Day, Remember. -05

Psalm 59:12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

Psalm 36:33 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

Swearing:

Lev 19:12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

2 Tim 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Cursing:

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Speaking of things that ought not so be...Unrighteous thoughts and actions:

Romans 6:12~14 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

The above list encompasses a number of things from over indulging in food and drink or God forbid smoking, to gambling or tattooing and the like. For instance, how often do we possibly shorten or stretch the truth? Do we sometimes have impure thoughts or gossip? How many times do we miss an opportunity to help someone with a random act of kindness? Let's not forget the pervasive love of money in this world of ours...How often does He see that we are not full-heartedly tithing? Remember!

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Just a few examples:

Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Proverb 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

*The membership of baptism. Why it's important that the whole body be immersed? The body is made up of many members and all must be made holy, we must rise up renewed. **Each and every part of us...each and every day.***

1 Corinthians 12:12~26 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit means turning away from the old things that we used to do when we were not yet believers. The Holy Spirit will help our hearts to be strong enough to resist all temptations of the world and from the devil.

How to think?

Romans 6:1~9 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 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. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

*There it is in verse 4, clear as day: By the glory of the **Father**, we should also walk in the newness of life!*

All Scriptures KJV unless otherwise noted

A Scripture to Ponder

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

*Yahshua, Himself was baptized at the beginning of His ministry and walked a sinless walk. He remains **our** example to emulate throughout **our** walk.*

Remember!

Selah

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