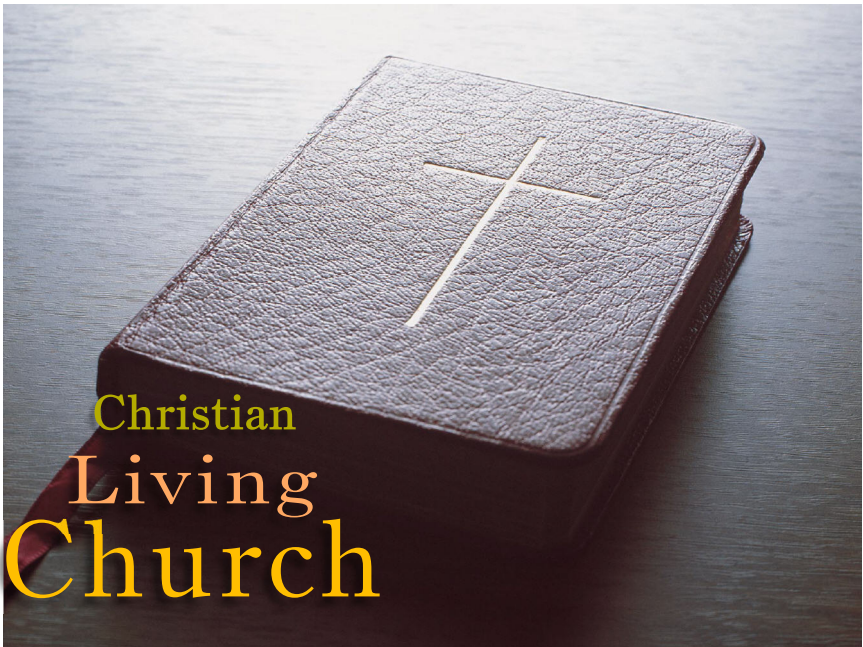


LESSON 3

Baptism

“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 Spirit .”



Christian
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Church

Baptism



This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (**Genesis 1:1**) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "***bold italicized and contained in quotation marks***" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue [Genesis 1:1](#) will be listed in the lesson section entitled **FURTHER STUDY**.

FURTHER STUDY is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message
The Church of God Rocky Mount
Rocky Mount, Virginia

Key Verse: Acts 2:38



“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 Spirit.”

Discussion Question: What does this Key Verse mean to you?

Our key verse says to repent and then be baptized. Just what does it mean to be baptized? First let's look at the definition of the word. The actual word means to immerse or to submerge {**907 baptizo bap-tid'- to immerse, submerge;**}. We find from the scripture that Jesus Himself was baptized and that He came up out of the water (**Matthew 3:16**), and when John was baptizing we find he was at a place where there was much water (**John 3:23**). We conclude from this that baptism means to be totally immersed into water, not sprinkled.

Just why should a person be baptized? To answer this question we must understand the fundamentals of the gospel that Jesus Christ brought to this Earth (**Luke 3:3**). The message is - The baptism of repentance FOR the remission of sins. Baptism represents something very dramatic and sobering and at the same time something very wonderful. It represents the abhorrence of the sinful, self-life and at the same time the ability to change our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit, which is given to us at baptism.

It's important to understand the symbolism of baptism. What does it represent (**Romans 6:3-7**)? Baptism represents a watery grave. You go down into the water and are completely immersed

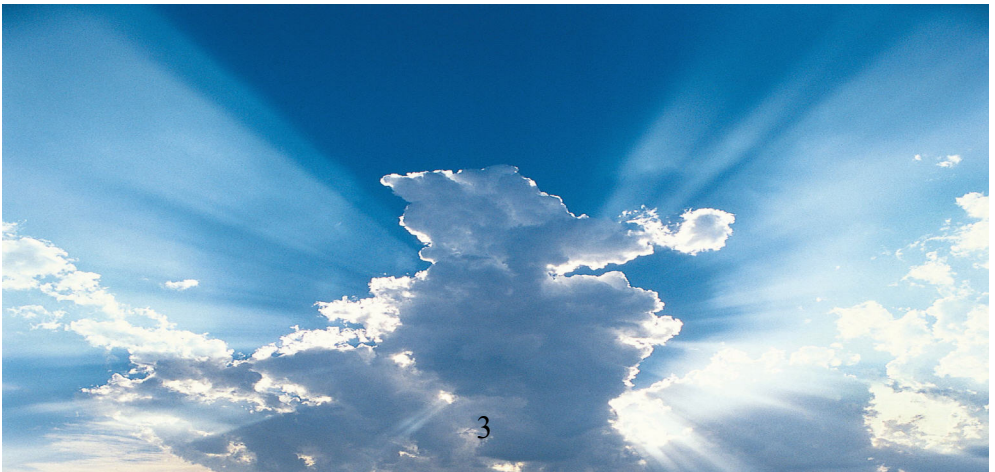
Baptism



just like a corpse is laid down and covered with the dirt of the earth. You come up out of the water as a new man or woman. Just like the dead are going to come back to life in the resurrection, so the newly baptized person is brought back to life from a state of death. He was dead in his sins and is now given (at baptism) a new life, a new start.

Now we come to the most critical issue as to WHY we need to be baptized. The key verse says, repent and be baptized and you shall receive the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Just what is the Spirit of God? In essence, it is

a very small part of the nature of God that is given to us at baptism. As it is nurtured and fed it continues to grow until it consumes the fleshly mind and overpowers our carnal ways. The Spirit of God is what makes conversion possible. The Spirit of God dwelling inside a person is what identifies a true Christian. The Bible clearly states that without the Spirit of God it is impossible to please Him and without the Spirit of God we are not His (**Romans 8:7-9**). The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to those who have surrendered their lives by the acts of repentance and baptism.



Baptism



Discussion Questions:

1. Considering the age at which Jesus was baptized, should small children be baptized? **Luke 3:21-23**

2. What does baptism represent?
Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:12

3. What precedes baptism?

Acts 8:36-38; Romans 3:23-25

4. Must a person, before baptism, count the cost?

**Luke 9:23, 14:16-27, 22:42; Acts 5:29;
Romans 12:1-2**

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5. Why do I need to be baptized?

Acts 1:5, 2:38, 5:32; 2 Peter 1:1-10

6. Do I need to be re-baptized?

Acts 19:1-6

Baptism

Notes

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