

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 53*

*The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit*  
*The Baptism of God the Holy Spirit*  
*Part 4*  
*Union with Christ - Defined*



*August, 2011*

*Rom 6:3-7 "Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus have been **baptized** into His death (retroactive positional truth)? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life (current positional truth)."*

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



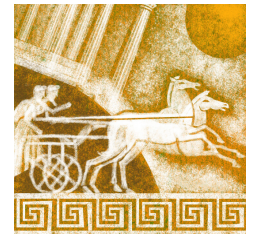
## Lesson

As we continue in our study of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and because there is confusion and many, many attacks on the doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit brought on by the kingdom of darkness, we are going to be very careful and define the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in clear terms right here at the beginning of our study so you can keep it locked in your souls.



We are going to go to the Greek language of the New Testament so we can get right to the real nature and purpose of the baptism that is related to God the Holy Spirit.

1. First, you need to understand that the English word "baptize" is not an English language word and it has no natural meaning of its own. It's simply a TRANSLITERATION of the same Greek word. In other words when we have a TRANSLITERATION in one language (Greek) the word is brought into the second language (English) "as is", character by character, sound by sound or more technically, brought over with the same phonetic spelling or "letter equivalents". This is very different from TRANSLATION, where the meaning of a word in one language is expressed by words in the second language that mean the same thing. So when we are dealing with a word in our English Bible that is transliterated from the Greek, the ONLY way to get at its meaning is to study the MEANING of the Greek word. So we have to go back to the **ancient world** and discover what the word meant when the New Testament was written.



The word "baptize" comes from the Greek verb *baptizo* (bap-tid'-zo), which means "The introduction or placing of a person or thing into a new place or environment or into union with someone or something else so as to change its condition or its relationship to its previous place or environment or condition." Instead of the transliteration, it would have helped our understanding of the word much better if the Bible translators had given us a translation! And a good simple translation for this Greek verb *baptizo* is "to place into union with" or "to introduce into".

Paul brings this word into the mystery doctrine of the New Testament letters and he places the word there so the word gets a new meaning and that meaning is "identification" and "union."

When Paul uses *baptizo* in relation to the Baptism by the Spirit, as he does in [Rom 6:3](#), [1 Cor 12:13](#) and [Gal 3:27](#), he is talking about "the act of identifying and uniting one thing with another that results in a permanent change of position and condition".

Let's look at these verses. [Rom 6:3-7](#) "Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus have been **baptized** into His death (retroactive positional truth)? (4) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life (current positional truth). (5) For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death (retroactive positional truth)?, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection (current positional truth), (6) knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin (our old sin nature) might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; (7) for he who has died is freed from sin."

1 Cor 12:13 "For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Gal 3:27-28 "For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in (union with) Christ Jesus."

Please notice by the way that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is universal. That means it is for ALL BELIEVERS in the Church Age. So it is not a special blessing received by just a few privileged people!

Also please notice that this baptism is into Christ, not into water.

Please notice that one result is unity among all members of the body of Christ. There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord Jesus Christ.

Please notice that this baptism is performed by the Holy Spirit, not by a minister or pastor.

Please notice that the purpose of this baptism by the Spirit is to place the believer into Christ, a union and identification with Christ...forever!

The Greek word, *Baptizo* in relation to the Baptism by the Spirit, the one baptism that matters for the Church Age believer, means "to be placed in eternal union with Christ by the omnipotence (power) of God the Holy Spirit at the moment of you believed in Christ for salvation, which resulted in a permanent change of position." That position is IN CHRIST! You are IN CHRIST right now and forever.

- Now, the Greek word *baptizo* is used in the New Testament in two ways: ritual and real baptisms. When man does the baptizing, a ceremony or ritual is being seen. When God does the baptizing, what is seen is the POWER of God.

We have seen that the Holy Spirit uses symbols a lot to get an idea across to us, especially an idea that is spiritual and in the area of His divine workings that we can't understand with our human senses. Metaphor is another name for a symbol and it means that the thing pictured represents something else. Here are some examples: blood of Christ, slave of Christ, Lamb of God. The parables are another example as well as ANTHROPOMORPHISMS and ANTHROPOPATHISMS.

"Wow" you say, what do those words mean?! AnthroPOMORPhisms in the Bible are, for example, the "hands of God," or the "arm of God." The Bible gives a human body part to God so we can understand what the Bible is teaching us in such passages about God's plan.

Examples of anthroPOPAtisms are "the Spirit being grieved" or "God is angry" or "God hates." God brings things down to our level so we can understand them. These are human emotions or characteristics and things assigned to God so we can understand Him in a clearer way. But then we have to be humble enough to realize that in doing this He is pointing to something much higher than anything we could understand by our own senses. This is ever so important when it comes to our subject, the Baptism by the Holy Spirit.

Again there are two kinds of baptisms or identifications in the New Testament...ritual baptisms or real baptisms.



So the Greek word *baptizo* is used in the New Testament in two ways: when man does the baptizing, a ceremony or ritual is pictured but when God does the baptizing, what is pictured is the exercise of God's power.

Ritual baptisms are the act of immersing, submerging, or sprinkling oneself in water or with water in a ritualistic way it. The baptism of Jesus and the baptism of John in the Gospels and the book of Acts are ritual baptisms. Remember the

Bible wasn't a completed book yet so they relied on rituals to teach these important doctrines.

Real baptisms or identification is God's act of identifying one thing with another as in the Baptism by the Spirit, the Baptism of Moses (1 Cor 10:2), the Baptism of Fire (Matt 3:11-12), and the Baptism of the Cross (Christ was identified with our sins).

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Depending on what the subject is in the passage in the Bible, *baptizo* or its noun *baptisma* (only found in the New Testament by the way) can refer either to a ritual identification or a real identification. Ritual baptisms use water as a teaching tool to picture by ritual a real identification or baptism.

Here is a more detailed and complete definition of the Baptism by the Spirit: at the moment of salvation, the omnipotence (power) of God the Holy Spirit places the Church Age believer into an eternal very important or vital union with Christ, and so identifying the believer with Christ and making the believer a permanent member of the Body of Christ...the Royal Family of God, a new spiritual species, and eternally secure. (Mark 16:16; John 7:37-39; John 14:20; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:1-4; Rom 6:3-5; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-28; Col 2:11-13; 1 Pet 3:21). Let's look these up.



By the Spirit's baptism into Christ, the believer is joined permanently into Christ the Lord. The believer has put on Christ, and therefore, being in Christ, shares all that Christ is! This very important or vital union is the foundation of every position and possession into which the child of God has entered. Since all that is vital in the Christian's relation to God depends upon this union with Christ, it is no surprise that the Baptism by the Spirit is under constant satanic attack to prevent the saints from completely understanding these life-changing spiritual truths.

### 3. The prophecy of the Baptism by the Spirit.

When we studied the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we saw that our Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples in the Upper Room that it would happen before it happened. Our Lord was about to leave them and He wanted them to know that He would ask the Father and the Father would send another Helper of the same kind (nature or essence) as the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord was telling the disciples something amazing and new and very important about the dispensation that was about to come and that would start once Christ was seated at the Right Hand of His Father and the Holy Spirit was sent to indwell Church Age believers.

Well, once again we are looking at another ministry (work) of God the Holy Spirit to the believer at salvation, and once again we start with words our Lord spoke to the disciples at the Last Supper. John 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever..."



Now the Indwelling of God the Holy Spirit refers to the act of God the Father sending the Spirit to take up His permanent residence in every Church Age believer, and this in answer to the prayer of God the Son. John 14:17 "...that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He lives with you and will be in you." John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

You remember this, kids, we got this far in John from our previous study of the doctrine of the Indwelling Holy Spirit. But now we continue to take in the next two verses: John 14:19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. (20) In that day you will know that I am in My Father and you in Me, and I in you." "In that day" was Pentecost for the disciples. That was the day that the Holy Spirit indwelt believers for the first time. But we can apply it even more because "in that day" refers to the dispensation of the Church Age, the age in which all believers will be indwelt by the Trinity and placed in union with Christ. That's all of us, kids. "I am in My Father" refers to the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. "You in Me" refers to our subject, the Baptism by the Holy Spirit, permanent very important or vital union with the Lord Jesus Christ. "I in you" refers to the indwelling of Christ in the believer. In other words... or actually in these words, you see that this is one AMAZING VERSE! Aren't you excited by all of this? This is one of those verses...John 14:20...that contains years of doctrines in it.

### 4. Definition and Description of the Baptism by the Spirit. Gal 3:26-28 "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." (27) For all of you who were baptized into Christ [baptized into Christ by means of the Holy Spirit] have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In simplest way in this passage, the baptism by the Spirit refers to God the Holy Spirit placing the new believer in union with Christ.

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The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a real baptism, an actual identification, in which God the Holy Spirit, at the moment we believe in Christ, enters the new believer in union with Christ. We are identified with Christ in His death, burial, and Resurrection! That's *retroactive* and *current positional truth*.

1 Cor 12:13 "For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." By being placed in union with the Head of the body (Jesus Christ), we are thereby made members of the body of Christ.

Here are some analogies:

If I am appointed by the President of the United States to be his secretary of state, by that act I am also made a member of his cabinet.

If I am adopted by a father, I am by that act made a brother of that man's other children.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the means of forming the royal family of God during the Church Age. It is a function of the omnipotence (power) of the Holy Spirit at salvation. By being entered into union with Christ, we are adopted as royal family of God. This is "positional sanctification." The result of the baptism by the Spirit, union with Christ, is also called "positional truth". The New Testament refers to "positional truth" in many places with the expression "in Christ" or "en Christos" in the Greek. And at the same time as entering us into union with Christ, a new spiritual species is created. WOW that's a lot!!! 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*" We are a new spiritual species.

The baptism by the Spirit is the ministry (work) of God the Holy Spirit in taking every new believer and entering him into permanent very important vital union with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again the Baptism by the Spirit: at the moment of salvation, the omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit places the Church Age believer into an eternal very important or vital union with Christ, identifying the believer positionally with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session. This results in making the believer a permanent member of the Body of Christ...the Royal Family of God, a new spiritual species, and eternally secure (Mark 16:16; John 7:37-39; John 14:20; Acts 1:5; Acts 2:1-4; Rom 6:3-5; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-28; Col 2:11-13; 1Pet 3:21). Repeat and repeat. You can never hear it too many times!

By the Spirit's baptism into Christ, the believer is joined permanently in the Lord. The believer has put on Christ, and therefore, being in Christ, partakes or shares all that Christ is!

This vital union is the foundation of every position and possession into which the child of God has entered.

To be continued...

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on February 10, 2011  
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