

Baptism x3?

Charisma...yep I said it... Them's fightin words...and I don't care...I aint scared. I'll say it again....Charisma... Are you nervous? Ok what about this....Charismatic.....feeling it? Do you know what it means?

Charisma is a Greek Word...a noun... It means...a gracious gift Oooooohhhh... It means a really great gift that you don't deserve... Paul uses the word Charisma...to describe the gifts that we receive from the Holy Spirit

People who believe in the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit... Have been called...Charismatic. In our last series, we studied the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.... For the next 5 weeks or so...we are going to explore some of the Gifts of the Spirit. So I need to warn you....we are going full blown Charismatic.

Yep..we are going to study the Gifts that we don't deserve. The ones Jesus promised to us that will give us power to witness.

So the next time someone asks you.... Is REMNANT one of those Charismatic Churches.. You can with confidence tell them yes. **We believe we have received great gifts...and we know we didn't deserve them**

Today we begin by exploring the most obvious gift... Not a gift of the Holy Spirit... But the Gift of the Holy Spirit Himself.

We just spent four weeks on His Arrival. Now we are going to move our focus to learning about Him and gifts He gives to us that we don't deserve.

Let me warn you...this sermon is packed with information Some you may agree with...some you might not. I encourage you to listen to this sermon again..and maybe again Go online...pause the recording...pray through what is being said. Study the Scriptures yourself Don't take my word for it Check and double check

We are going to begin an exploration of baptisms. Do Scriptures support one baptism? Two? Three? More?

Now as you study the Scriptures regarding this topic...Continually ask yourself four questions. **1) Who is being baptized? 2) Who is doing the baptism? 3) What are they being baptized into? 3) When does that Baptism happen?**

Lets at the beginning define baptism.

Throughout Jewish History, water was used to purify and cleanse. Remember it was part of the entrance to the Tabernacle. Priest frequently bathed and cleansed themselves before approaching God.

The use of water as an instrument for religious and physical cleansing is prevalent throughout the Pentateuch. Those who had committed certain defiling offenses were

required to immerse themselves in water in order to ritually purify the body. Examples of such offenses include: touching a corpse, touching a dead animal, touching skin lesions....and others.

The Greek word used throughout the NT is "Baptizo" It means "to dip" to "completely immerse" The root of that word means to dip a garment into a dye The feeling that goes with that word is one of a.... Transforming experience.

Baptism brings with it the emotion of life change... They carry the emotion of a profound... If not overwhelming experience

During the Second Temple and immediately prior to the arrival of Jesus, baptism was used to clean Gentiles. Yep, have to clean the dirty Gentiles.

Gentiles were considered spiritually and ritually unclean and needed purification in order to enter Israel and the temple

Apart from proselyte baptism, some Jews used immersions as acts of repentance The Qumran sect participated frequently in water purification rituals. They considered immersions spiritually ineffective if not accompanied by sincere repentance and "humble submission ... to all the precepts of God"

Baptism began as a ritual to initiate new believers into the Jewish religion and continued to serve as a purifying mechanism in Jewish religious life. After the time of John the Baptist, baptism took on an expanded meaning, as it signified turning from death to life through the power of Christ's death and resurrection. Over time, the apostles and early church fathers developed this doctrine further, and the practice began to take on new meaning for different communities of faith throughout the centuries.

Baptism means to be immersed in something, cleansed/purified and as a result changed.

Now it may surprise you... That Scriptures support not just one... Not just 2 baptisms... But at least 3 distinct and maybe more unique baptism experiences..for followers of Jesus... Don't worry we will study them together.

Got your attention now....don't I?

So John the Baptist, was likely of the Qumran sect...He was out in the wilderness telling people to repent and prepare their hearts for the arrival of the Messiah.

Matthew 3:1–3 (ESV) 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Matthew 3:5–6 (ESV) 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:11 (ESV) 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Ok so John the Baptizer teaches us that there is a baptism of water. A baptism that is based on the law...sins committed...and repentance of those sins. This baptism prepared one's heart to receive the coming Messiah.

John the Baptist tells us that there is a future baptism....one that he cannot do....a baptism done by the Messiah Himself...a Baptism not into the water but into Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:33 (ESV) 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Jews up to the point of John the Baptizer had been trying to repent and cleanse themselves with water but it was only temporary and had to be repeated over and over again. We saw this again and again in the Tabernacle and Temple sacrifices.

But John said the Messiah would come baptizing too. That he was a foreshadowing...of one to come.

John the Baptist foretold that the First Gift that we don't deserve is the Gift of the Holy Spirit Himself. This gift was sent to us by Jesus. Jesus promised the same.

Acts 1:4–5 (ESV) 4 "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Both Jesus and John the Baptist say...there is a baptism...different from the one I am doing One that is coming... That is different from the one with water I baptize just with water...But He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire

Note that this Baptism with the Spirit is a future event. Jesus is the one who will be doing the Baptizing... He will immerse believers not in water... But with the Holy Spirit.

There is clearly then...in Scripture...a separate Baptism by Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

What is interesting about this... Is that Jesus never baptized anyone in water...

John 4:1–3 (ESV) 4 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee.

There is no evidence or mention in Scripture of Jesus baptizing anyone.

Jesus we are told will baptize believers in the Holy Spirit.... But we are also told that Jesus must leave for the Holy Spirit to come. So in the future both Jesus and John the Baptist

tell us... There is a baptism in the Holy Spirit that is coming... After Jesus ascend to Heaven and sends the Spirit

Now we know that Jesus HIMSELF was baptized in water And when He did so...the Holy Spirit descended and stayed upon Him.

Was He at that moment baptized in the Holy Spirit? Jesus tells the Disciples that He has received a baptism.... That is different from theirs.

Mark 10:37–39 (ESV) 38 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

Note that He says the Baptism with which I am baptized. Jesus speaks of a baptism that He has received... But they have not..Then He gives them a promise.

Mark 10:37–39 (ESV) 39 And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,

He promises a future event.. One day you will receive the same Baptism that I have already received.

So if people ask you... Is there a Baptism in the Holy Spirit that is unique and distinct ... From water baptism....You can... based on Scripture...confidently say yes..Don't take my word for it....Take Jesus'

Acts 1:4–5 (ESV) 4 “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Jesus said...You Heard from Me... He is the best reliable source ever... You will be baptized...a promise... With..or in..the Holy Spirit.

But if it was that clear.... Why is their controversy about it? What is the controversy about? Why is the topic of being baptized in the Holy Spirit so... So...volatile?

Don't believe me? The next time you are with a group of Christians.. at lets say a conference or concert... Just bring up being baptized in the Holy Spirit... And watch what happens.

You will discover quickly that there are two groups.. Charismaniacs... and Charisphobics. And they love to try to prove that they are right

So I need to warn you... That sometimes when you study God's word... You end up with more questions than answers You start out thinking you might have it figured out... But then you begin to uncover the controversy What you thought was clear..is no longer clear

You have to get comfortable...being uncomfortable.

I think God does that on purpose for several reasons... God has only revealed to us what He believes we need to know We are on a need to know basis In fact, most of the time we don't get all the answers

We study Scriptures and God gives us just enough to take the next step of faith We want to tie up our theology in nice package with a beautiful bow... But it doesn't turn out that way.. What starts as a question seems to open up.. Lots of questions

One of the key points of diving deep into Scripture... Is to force you and I to spend time seeking the Holy Spirit To teach them all things....

Sometimes I think God doesn't give us clear answers... So that we can develop a relationship with our teacher... The experience rather than the answer is the most important thing

I told you that I am on this journey with you. Like you...I come to Scripture with my own set of glasses...my world view

It has been shaped what I have been taught By what I have seen.. By my western world view By my Baptist upbringing By my involvement in Pentecostal ministries

But truth is not my worldview or my opinion Truth is in Scripture

One of the hardest things to do..when it comes to Scripture... Is to come to it as Martin Luther did... Sola Scriptura "By Scripture Alone" It is what the entire protestant reformation was all about

God revealed Himself to us in Scripture...so we must use Scripture as our primary source of understanding.

But sometimes...different groups look at Scripture through different lenses... Not wrong...just different We need to remember that as we begin to unpack... This concept of Baptism in the Spirit.

I made a promise to you when we started this series. That we would study the Scriptures together.... To try to understand the Holy Spirit.

Before we take one step further...I need to make sure we all understand. That when it comes to the Holy Spirit Some of the Scriptures are black and white...but there is a lot of grey

If someone is absolutely sure that know this topic perfectly... They probably need to study the Scriptures some more until they are confused.

People who love Jesus...have repented..have been baptized with water... Christ followers who will be together in heaven Whose salvation is sealed...who love God's word...who walk with the Spirit And whose total desire is to surrender to Jesus and die to themselves. Disagree on what the Bible actually says about the Holy Spirit...and baptism

We will see that when it comes to this topic.... God revealed just enough for us to walk together in faith But not enough for us to walk in certainty That is why we are on a faith journey... What we know is enough... We must admit what we don't know... And avoid the temptation to fill in the blanks with our answers and our opinions

So later this week... When you are talking to someone at church... And you find that they have a completely different perspective About the Holy Spirit.... Don't freak out...there is plenty of grey here for everyone. Just remember...the problem with Christ followers today... Is the we are better known for what we are against Than who we are for Never let theological debates about grey zones... Hinder those who are seeking

As we dive in..we need to heed Paul's warning to Timothy

2 Timothy 2:14–17 (ESV) 14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers... 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.

We are to rightly handle the word of truth... Demand compliance where it is clear... Walk in faith and extend Grace where it is grey But avoid irreverent babble... Because those looking in at us...will not understand the argument.. Just the arguing...

Baptism Number One- The Baptism of Faith

Let's start out with what is clear in Scripture... No one really debates the First Baptism.... But we often don't call it a baptism.. Yet this is the moment that is most life transforming

This baptism is by far the most important and the one no one wants to miss

The First Baptism occurs when we Repent It is a baptism of the Holy Spirit that occurs when we surrender And trust Jesus to save us It occurs in that moment when we repent

It is the Holy Spirit that brings conviction in our lives and lead us to realize the truth about Jesus.

A few weeks ago we looked at Peter's instructions... Repent...Be Baptized...Receive the Holy Spirit... He is actually outlining the three overwhelming experiences..

The First Baptism is that moment when you repent... If you have been born again... The Holy Spirit drew you to God...He convicted you of your sins... He made you aware of how you were separated from God. He led you to repent..to turn from your old ways He convinced you to trust what Jesus did to save you

When you responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit... In the moment that you repented... The Holy Spirit created a new you- You were baptized not into water but into Jesus....You were in Christ. Through your faith in Jesus you immersed yourself in Him and You were spiritually reborn...now and for eternity You were regenerated. You received salvation and your eternity is secure. Your First Baptism occurred the moment when you were born again.

The work of the First Baptism is done by the Holy Spirit... He reveals truth...you choose to respond. Paul said it this way...

1 Corinthians 12:13 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

By one Spirit...the Holy Spirit... Into One Body... Jesus Christ... He is the ark of our salvation Note we were ALL ...given one Spirit to drink

Notice something here....We were all...all...every one of us...no believer missed...Didn't matter if you were Jew..Greek...Slave...Free...we were all baptized by the Holy Spirit into one Body..Christ.

This baptism is universal for all believers. Done and Dusted. No one missed...No one skipped this baptism...it is the universal and defining experience for every true believer of Jesus.

PHOTO Every believer....when they repent....the Holy Spirit takes them and immerses them into the Body of Christ. Christ's blood cleanses, purifies and transforms us....We become spiritual beings...led by the Holy Spirit....now living in a human body...with human limitations...but full of God's potential.

The First Baptism is the most important.... Because it seals our salvation... If you have truly been born again... Your salvation is secure..Notice also...that your only part in this transformative salvation experience is faith in Christ and Repenting. Everything is done by the Holy Spirit.

Additional baptisms are in a sense icing on the cake. We know that the criminal on the cross... Believed in Jesus..but was never baptized Yet Jesus said I will see you in paradise today. The First Baptism is the most important.

So just to be clear...Baptism #1...by the Holy Spirit...into Jesus...salvation secure. It is in this moment of faith and repentance that you change from being a human being seeking a spiritual experience to a spiritual being having a human experience. You are saved. You can never die.

Baptism Number 2- The Believers Baptism of Water

We have witnessed people getting baptized here at church, **PHOTO** at the beach and elsewhere Jesus Himself was baptized in water. So water baptism is pretty obvious to most of us. We still find things to argue about though... Believers baptism..vs...infant baptism... Water immersion...pouring water over us...sprinkling...

So let's unpack the second baptism a bit After you have repented and received your Salvation.... If you are obedient to the commands of Scripture... You make the decision to choose to experience a second baptism... The Believers Baptism of Water.

This is the Baptism most of us are familiar with It is the one Jesus had in mind...

Matthew 28:19 (ESV) 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

This baptism is done by another believer....Go therefore baptizing. This is a Baptism of water... Represents our commitment to not only repent and trust Jesus... But to identify with Him in His death..burial..and resurrection. Jesus said, go make disciples and then baptize them. So this baptism is clearly distinct from the first baptism of belief. It is done by other believers. They are immersed in water. They are already saved and born again. So what is this baptism about? Why is it important?

Notice that I said Believers Baptism of Water. Stay with me here. Prior to Jesus people were baptized with Water. We spoke about how it represented a cleansing effort before approaching God. It was limited and had to be continually repeated. This baptism, was man's attempt to clean up and prepare for the arrival of the Messiah. John the Baptist said....the baptism I do is nothing compared to the Spiritual baptism one Jesus will bring.

So we use the term water baptism to represent what occurred prior to Christ and Believers Water Baptism to represent this Second Baptism of those in Christ.

PHOTO The Believers Baptism of Water is about consecration. To tell others that we have not only been saved... But we are trusting the work of the Holy Spirit to allow us... To pursue holiness. To walk in newness of life... To commit to a life of dying to our old self... And walking in the Holy Spirit.

This second baptism in many ways represents the truth that we are saved, born again spiritual believers who remain in a body of flesh and live with a sin nature in a sinful world.

It is a statement that while we are born again spiritual beings, we are being transformed by the Holy Spirit into the person Christ promises that we will become.

This baptism is our public declaration that while we still struggle with sin....we are in the end victorious...and God is using our experiences on earth to transform us to become just like Jesus.

This second baptism...is our public statement of consecration. Our awareness that we have been set apart for the purpose and ministry of Jesus.

PHOTO We are essentially telling the world... My life is not just about securing my salvation... I want to pursue the Holiness of Jesus. I want to stop sinning... I trusted Jesus for my salvation... Now I am trusting the Holy Spirit to transform me I believe that Jesus' way is better...but I need the Holy Spirit to help me because there is something in me that resists surrender to Him.

I want my life to reflect Jesus' holiness... So that others can see Christ in me. I want my life to be about others... I want to show them Jesus... And it starts with me... Surrendering to His first step of obedience..

I want those who don't know Jesus to understand that...I am coming out of this water... and after you. I trust the Holy Spirit to work through me... To save you...and others

It is this baptism where we tell the world and our church family and God....I am all in.
Anything, anywhere, any cost, any time....God use me to save people. Church family help
me and hold me accountable. I am all in with all of you.

Baptism Number 2- The Believer's Baptism of Water
Believers who choose to obey (not all)
Other believers on behalf of the Holy Spirit
Immersed into water
Consecration. Being Set Apart. Pursuing Holiness
I am ALL IN

Ok no problem so far..right? **Baptism 1 and 2**

Baptism #1...By the Holy Spirit...Into Christ... At our moment of repentance... The Holy Spirit
spiritually immerses us into Christ...into Jesus. Demonstrating our trust and faith in Jesus to
save us.

Ephesians 2:5–6 (ESV) 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together
with Christ

No longer dead in sin...alive in Christ...born again...Spiritual being....eternal member of
God's family...Saved.....Secure.....Sealed.

Baptism #2...By the Holy Spirit...into Water A moment of consecration Setting ourselves
aside...to pursue holiness Not by our power...but by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Demonstrating our faith and trust in the Holy Spirit to transform us.

In this Believers Water Baptism, we symbolically identify with Christ in His Death and
Resurrection. We come up out of the water not because we have completed the mission,
but because we are just starting it. We have risen to walk in newness of life.

Ephesians 2:5–6 (ESV) 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and
seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Dead...Alive together with Christ...raised to new life The symbolism of water baptism

But then we turn to the Third Baptism...and things get interesting.....So Come back next Week

But before we even open up this topic... Let me make a few things crystal clear...

The first baptism secures your salvation... True repentance...True brokenness...True
surrender... Genuine trust in what Jesus did on the cross... Surrendering your life to Jesus...
Saves you...period

Your salvation never hinges on experiencing... Any other baptism.. Additional Baptisms are
icing on the cake.. They allow you to be more effective witnesses for Christ. The Second
Baptism is about consecration and the Third Baptism is about power.

So if someone says your salvation depends upon... Being baptized in water... Or being baptized in the Holy Spirit... Or speaking in tongues... They have misinterpreted Scripture...

Pull them aside...away from those who are seeking... Just gently and kindly in love..redirect them to the Criminal on the Cross He was neither baptized..nor spoke in tongues... And he is in paradise with Jesus

All of the hub bub is about this third baptism. The Baptism where the Holy Spirit fell on the Disciples in Solomon's Portico on Pentecost. I have seen church's split, Christians almost come to fisticuffs, and incredible angst over this baptism. This baptism is where Charismatics and Charisphobics square off. It is going to take all of next week's sermon to unpack it.

But here is the truly sad part. While Satan has presumed believers arguing over this third baptism.....many have missed the first one and don't know it.

They have skipped repentance and brokenness. They were never baptized into Christ because they deny their true nature and the sins they have committed. To many churches allow seekers to believe that they come to Christ without any evidence of true repentance.

They teach....Do you agree that you are a sinner? Then just say this prayer and we will baptize you right now.

Yet Peter said....Repent....Be Baptized....Receive the Holy Spirit.

They are in order because they cannot be skipped. Repent. Agree with God about your fatal condition. Agree with God about your inability to do anything about it. Agree with God that the one thing that you know you need...Is to be Saved...from yourself...from this world...from your sinful nature. You hate your sin as much as you would hate terminal cancer. You need a miracle. You need Jesus and you believe in Him to save you.

Let's not worry about Baptism number 2 or 3 or 4 or 10 until we are absolutely sure that we have been immersed by the Holy Spirit into Christ. Let's Pray