

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN BIRTH

A STUDY BASED ON DAVID
PAWSON'S TEACHING ON BEING
BIRTHED INTO GOD'S KINGDOM



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THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN
BIRTH SERIES

Study 1: Born Again

Overview



01

Birth affects life

02

The need for New Testament language

03

RBBR in the New Testament

04

Parts of the Godhead – Father, Son & the Holy Ghost (Trinity)

05

Streams in the Church

06

Conversion and Regeneration

01 Birth affects life

Discussion Question



What has been your experience with the 4 steps of the Normal Christian Birth?

When person is being counseled, don't discuss problem but rather how they were born.

A bad birth can produce a sickly unhealthy baby. The way we begin steers the course for the rest of life. For most of us our conversion has been the biggest influence in our Christian life.

Midwife Analogy: Helps reveal the importance of a proper birthing process.

4 aspect of the New Birth, firing on how many cylinders? 4? 2?

1. **Repent** from Sin
2. **Believe** in Jesus Christ
3. **Baptize** in water
4. **Receive** the Holy Spirit

RuBBeR

At what point is a baby born?

What similarities are there between a spiritual birth and a physical birth?

When is a Baby Born?

02 The need for New Testament language

Discussion Question



What are some other non-biblical terms we use as Christians?

- Biblical language vs made up terminology

When we get away from biblical language we are moving away from biblical principles

Some terms used today....

- "Making a decision for Christ"
- "Making a commitment for Christ"
- "Give your heart to Jesus"
- "Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior"

Where are these terms in the Bible? What was the disciples' terminology?

Example "Being slain in the Spirit" – Ananias and Sapphira

Saying "We take a text out of context and make it a pretext for our point"

Scripture to read

John 3:1-8 (NIV)

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Discussion Question



Why would Jesus use the phrase “born again of Water and of Spirit”? Why two things? How does this line up with the disciples’ language?

03 RBBR in the New Testament

You can't find the full Gospel in the four gospels – Why?

- **Believe** in the risen Lord Jesus
- **Receive** the Holy Spirit when Jesus went to the right hand of the Father

Baptism in Bible was not baptism in the name of Jesus Christ – was baptism of John as per Acts 19.



In the Gospels a believer in Jesus Christ does not receive the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures to read

John 16:5-7 (NIV)

5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' **6** Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. **7** But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

John 7:37-39 (NIV)

37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." **39** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Gospels are too early for our Study

What about the epistles or revelation?

This were focused to be who were already Christians

Why should we look at the book of Acts for reference on becoming a Christian?

- We watch Apostles on location
- What Gospel did they preach?
- What was the message?
- How they got started?
- How people responded the Gospel?

RBBR in Acts

Acts 8 and Acts 19 – One example of Peter and one of Paul

Both times they used RBBR – All four steps for the Normal Christian Birth.

Luke who wrote the Book of Acts doesn't include all four steps every time. He usually highlights one or other of these four things depending on what is the most striking thing on that occasion.

One of the most striking things you notice is that new believers in the Book of Acts began their Christian life in a personal relationship with three persons in the Godhead. They knew from the very beginning that God was a Trinity.



Many Christians have started their Christian life today with no relationship with the Holy Spirit.

04 Parts of the Godhead – Father, Son & the Holy Spirit (Trinity)

- **Repent** Towards the Father
- **Believe** in name of Jesus Christ
- **Receive** the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist mentioned all four

Scriptures to read

Matthew 3:11 (NIV)

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 7:38 (NIV)

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Luke 5:31-32 (NIV)

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **32** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Mark 16:16 (NIV)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

John 7:39 (NIV)

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Paul the Apostle mentioned all four

- Don't you remember Repent
- Don't you remember Believe
- Don't you remember Baptized
- Do you remember Spirit – faith or by works

Scripture to read

Hebrews 6:1-4 (NIV)

1 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, **2** instruction about cleansing rites,[b] the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3** And God permitting, we will do so. **4** It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

In the book of Acts we can see all four steps in the context of the Gospel message.



4 Steps of Pattern in Acts – 4 Focus of Gospel Steps – 4 Steps for Freedom –
4 Steps to being Fully Delivered

Discussion Question



How clear have these 4 steps been presented to you before and after becoming a Christian?

05 Streams in the Church

Discussion Question

Have you found that one of the steps of the Normal Christian birth has been emphasized to you during your discipleship journey?



Different streams of church life have emphasized one of the four.

- **Liberals** emphasize repentance. Liberals say change your attitude and lifestyle although recently they have focussed on recently on political issues of social justice rather than personal immorality.
- **Evangelicals** is faith and believing in Jesus Christ.
- **Sacramental (Roman Catholic or Anglo)** - You become Christian by water baptism. They will say when you were christened as baby that's when you are born again.
- **Pentecostal** – Teach two receptions of the Holy Spirit: First when a person believes and then baptism in the Spirit as a second blessing.

In the New Testament all four steps are necessary to entering into the Kingdom, necessary to being saved, necessary to entering eternal life here and now.

There's nothing bigger than the whole truth.



The focus from all four steps is FAITH. Faith unlocks the other steps, that is why we are saved by Faith.

Through faith we repent, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. We are saved by a real faith.

06 Conversion & Regeneration

Conversion – What we do
Regeneration – What God does

Discussion Question



How clear have these 4 steps been presented to you before and after becoming a Christian?

Conversion is making a U-Turn - turning one way then going the other.

All four steps we can initiate and God can do as well

Four Steps	Conversion	Regeneration
Repent from Sin	We make decision to repent	God grants repentance
Believe in Jesus Christ	We put our faith in God	Faith is a Gift
Baptism in Water	We go to be baptized	God washes away our sin
Receive Holy Spirit	We ask for Holy Spirit	God gives Holy Spirit

Scripture to read

Colossians 2:11-12 (NIV)

11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Discussion Question



Has your view leant towards what God does in the salvation process or what you have to do to be a Christian?

Steps 1,2 Focus more on conversation

Steps 3,4 Focus more on regeneration

Regeneration is a process

Are you a Calvinist or an Arminian?

Calvinist position- summarized in 5 points TULIP: Total depravity; Unconditional election; Limited atonement; Irresistible grace; and Perseverance of the Saints)

Arminian position – places emphasis on a person's will.

God does it all vs We do it? The truth is it's normally both.

The main concern is to have a baby Christian become fully alive in God.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The Bible is open, showing text on both pages. The background is dark and out of focus.

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN BIRTH
SERIES

Study 2: Repent of Your Sins Towards God

Overview



01

What is repentance?

02

What are the three components of repentance?

03

How to help others to identify specific sins?

01 What is repentance?

The very first step of someone entering into the Kingdom has always been 'Repent!'

The church should be telling the world to repent. So many people are becoming Christians without repentance and then they need to repent of their sins after they have become a Christian.

Repentance has a unique feature- it is recognising what you feel you have done to God. That is different from regret and remorse, suddenly you realise it is God you have hurt most.

Look at the Prodigal Son to his Father "I have sinned against you and against heaven." Cain repented bitterly what he did to Abel, he just regretted the punishment he received.

The 'God' dimension of repentance

1. God who you hurt most
2. God's laws you broke
3. God's love you refused
4. God's anger you provoked
5. God's judgment you deserve
6. God's mercy you need

As soon as the God dimension comes in it becomes what Apostle Paul calls the godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

Discussion Question

What is the difference between repentance and regret?

Regret and remorse don't necessarily lead to repentance. Cain regretted bitterly what he had done to Abel but he never repented of it. He never put it right, never confessed it.

Scriptures to read

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Luke 15:11-32 (NKJV)

11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. **13** And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. **14** But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. **15** Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. **17** "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, **19** and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" **20** "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. **23** And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; **24** for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. **25** "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' **28** "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. **29** So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. **30** But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' **31** "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. **32** It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

02 What are the three components of repentance?

In the New Testament, repentance goes through three stages and it takes time.

Repentance is not a generic sinner's prayer. Repentance is always repentance of particular sins.

1. Thought

Changing your mind about particular things and thinking God's way about them. You will realise God is a much better person than he thought He was- your thoughts take a somersault. When you catch a glimpse of his holiness and his purity you have a much lower view of yourself.

The Greek word "metanoia" means to have second thoughts- to think again about the way you have been living.

In the Bible, repentance covers your bad deeds and your good deeds. The closer you get to God, the worse you feel.

When you think God's way, then you realise not only your bad deeds are pretty horrible, amazingly you begin to see that your good deeds are just as offensive to God. It comes as a shock to many people when they realise in their mind that the best things they have ever done are not good enough for God.



Scriptures to read

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

Philippians 3:8 (KJV)

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

2. Word

First you must make a public and specific confession of sins. Confession is owning our choices and saying we are responsible.

Protestants in reaction to the Catholic practice of confession, have neglected confession.

There is no confession of general sin in the New Testament, only confession of specific sins.

John the Baptist required a public confession of sins.

Confession helps people to be accountable for their sins and naming things gets things out into the light. When you confess sins you can't make excuses.

Sometimes it appears Christians would rather have inner healing than forgiveness.

**We are not the result of what has been done to us.
We are the result of what we have done in response
to what has been done to us. It's the choices of
reaction that we have made that has made us
what we are.**



For example, if I am bitter, it's because I have chosen to resent what has been done to me rather than forgive it. More people are in need of repentance than inner healing.

We choose our friends, we choose the ambitions we have- confession is saying "I made the right choice" and it is the beginning of lifting someone into a responsible human being.

In the early church before baptism, people were asked to renounce the world, the flesh and the devil and say publicly "I have nothing more to do with those false masters."

3. Deeds

Repentance begins with thought, it then comes out with words but it must then come out with deeds.

John of the Baptist said "Produce fruit in keeping of repentance." (Matthew 3:8) Apostle Paul preached repentance to the Gentiles and the need to prove their repentance by their deeds (see Acts 26:19-20).

We should stop baptising people in the profession of faith and instead baptise them on proof of repentance.

Repentance is putting the past right. Jesus said salvation had come to the house of Zacchaeus when he said he would give fourfold to those people he had taken things from on the basis of a false accusation.

You may need to destroy objects which are part of our deeds of repentance. In Ephesus (Acts 19), new believers burnt their occultic books as a sign of their repentance.

Discussion Question

What do you think about fear of the Lord being the same as becoming utterly redundant?

Scriptures to read

Luke 3:10-14 (NIV)

10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Acts 26:19-20 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, **20** but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

Luke 19:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. **2** Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. **3** And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. **5** And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up [a]and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." **6** So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. **7** But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." **8** Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." **9** And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; **10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Acts 19:17-20 (NIV)

17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. **19** A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Matthew 10:28 (NIV)

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

03 How to help others to identify specific sins?

1. We repentance needs to be taken seriously

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

We can point out where their present life will lead them.

Ask "Do you know what it means to perish?"

When something is perished, it cannot be used for the purpose it was made.

Hell is God's incinerator for perished people.

We should stop baptising people in the profession of faith and instead baptise them on proof of repentance.



Discussion Question

What do you think about fear of the Lord being the same as becoming utterly redundant?



2. We need to help people to be specific

We need to help people to be specific in confessing their sin.

1. **Have a guided conversation with people**, keeping their sins confidential.
2. **Prepare a detailed list.** Before you counsel someone, give them a list that people get involved in. The New Testament contains about 30 lists of sin and between them they cover 120 things that God considers sin.
3. **A third way is an immediate revelation.** Sometimes David Pawson has asked the Holy Spirit to show the person he is counselling what the tap root problem is. Sometimes David Pawson has asked for a word of knowledge about what is driving someone's sin.

The Holy Spirit wants to get to the root of the sin.

Discussion Question



How can we help people to be specific about their sins?

3. We need people to be sensible in their emotions

We need to be sensible in emotions. Sometimes people have an exaggerated guilt about something but psychological guilt is not moral guilt.

We need to be sensible in the actions of repentance and not let feelings get out of proportion.

We need to help people people to become sensible of what can be put right and what can't.



Discussion Question



How can we help people to be specific about their sins?



THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN
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Study 3: Believe in the Lord Jesus

Overview



01

Faith is historical

02

Faith is personal

03

Faith has a verbal dimension

04

Faith is practical

05

Faith is continual

06

How do you help people in their faith?

01 Faith is historical

Faith is based on facts and not feelings

Based on certain events that happened. We are putting our faith in the facts of history.

It is not 'faith in faith'

There are three facts at the heart of the Christian faith:

1. That Jesus died
2. Jesus was buried
3. Jesus was raised from the dead

Christian faith is exclusive, it is not a general belief in God.

Discussion Question



What is the difference between believing 'in' someone and believing that someone exists?

Scripture to read

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

13 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **14** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

No one can put Jesus on the Cross again. No one can put Him in the tomb again. No one can raise Him again- those have happened and they can never happen again.



02 Faith is personal

Faith needs to be 'in Jesus.' It is trusting in a person and believing in a person.

The enemy has number one faith. The demons of Jesus died, he was buried and their rose from the dead.

The believers know God is one and they tremble.

No other religions have the same claim to rising from the dead. Muhammad is dead and his tomb is full. Buddha is dead and his tomb is full. Confucious is dead and his tomb is full.

Discussion Question



What are some other non-biblical terms we use as Christians?

03 Faith has a verbal dimension

When you really believe something you are prepared to say it. There are two ways in which faith becomes verbal:

1. **In talking to Jesus:** If you really believe Jesus is alive, know Him and have a personal relationship with Him, you can talk to him. It's putting your faith in words and to talk directly to Jesus and to call on His name. There's something about using someone's name that makes all the difference. You exercise faith by talking to someone.
2. **Talk about Jesus:** One of the best things a new believer can do is to talk to someone about their faith.

Just like repentance becomes words at some stage. Faith needs to be expressed as words.



The only thing a Jew or Jewess needs to know is Jesus is alive. This is what happened to Saul of Tarsus when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Scriptures to read

Romans 10:8-9 (NIV)

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: **9** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:12-13 (NIV)

12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, **13** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Scripture to read

Matthew 10:32-34 (NIV)

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. **33** But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. **34** "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Discussion Question

Have you found that talking to Jesus makes your faith stronger?



Discussion Question



How clear have these 4 steps been presented to you before and after becoming a Christian?

Faith is when you let go and act on the Word of God.

James 2 gives two startling examples and it has nothing to do with moral quality. Rahab, a prostitute, showed faith when she took the spies in Jericho and got them safely from the city. Abraham showed faith when he took his only son who was in his early 30s and took him to Mount Mariah and offered the son as a sacrifice, risking the entire future of his family.

Both Rahab and Abraham risked their entire futures and acted on God's Word.



Every illustration of faith in Hebrews 11 are actions. They believed what God said and they acted accordingly.

Faith is NOT saying you agree with the Scripture
Faith is NOT saying you accept the Scripture
Faith comes when you act with the Scripture

Scriptures to read

James 2:14-26 (NIV)

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. **19** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? **21** Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. **23** And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **26** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Romans 3:28 (NIV)

For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Hebrews 11 (NIV)

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2**

This is what the ancients were commended for. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. **5** By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those

who earnestly seek him. **7** By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. **8** By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **9** By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

Hebrews 11 (NIV) cont...

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. **11** For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. **14** What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. **23** And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **26** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. **17** If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. **18** But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

My faith of yesterday won’t save me today, and my faith of today won’t save me tomorrow. Like salvation itself, faith is a continual thing, and it has this element of keeping faith in it, of going on trusting.



John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Whoever goes on believing. It’s not a moment of faith, it’s a lifetime of faith.

The Bible talks about those who make shipwreck of their faith, who depart from their faith. Those warnings are very strong and very severe and very clear.

The Apostle Paul at the later part of his life did not trust in the faith he had on the road to Damascus. He said “The life I now live, I live by faith.” And when he reached the end of his life he said “I have finished the course, I have fought the fight, I have kept the faith.”

There is a verse at the end of Hebrews 11 after mentioning Moses and Noah and all the heroes of the faith “All these were still living by faith when they died.”

We need to communicate this. So many people think that one moment of faith you have your ticket to glory- no- it’s a life of faith.

Jesus wants to save you every day from your sins, from yourself, and it’s only the faith of today that saves me today. It’s only the faith of today that saves me today.



Habakkuk 2:4 says “The just shall live by faith”

It became the Magna Carta of the Protestant Reformation.

The word “faith” only occurs 3 times in the Old Testament and it always means “faithfulness” it always means “To go on trusting someone.” It’s used of a marriage that stays together. What God is saying to Habbakuk is this, “Those who go on trusting Me will not be destroyed when the Babylonians come.” That little phrase “the just shall survive by keeping faith” which is the literal translation- is used by three writers of the New Testament. They quote Habbakuk and every time, the emphasis, the point of their quotation is on the continuity of faith. Listen to Paul: Paul says “I’m not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of salvation for everyone who keeps on believing. For it is faith from first to last even as it is written “The just shall live by faith.”

As you go on trusting the Lord, you will go on being saved and you will never perish. That’s what the New Testament says- it’s a life of faith that saves.

That makes sense of all the texts that say “he who endures to the end shall be saved.” That makes sense of Paul’s solemn warning “You gentile believers, don’t get proud because the Jews were cut off. Because if you don’t continue in God’s kindness, you too will be cut off.” These are solemn warnings and every New Testament warning says to not to let go of your confidence in God.

Scripture to read

Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

The whole emphasis we need to communicate to people is that is not just this step of faith or this decision of faith that saves you; you are now starting a life of faith.



06 How Do You Help People in Their Faith?

We shall help people in their faith by telling them the facts.

There are people who want to know if Jesus rose from the dead. Did these things actually happen? We have a duty to give a reason for the hope is in us. A book Josh McDowell "Evidence that Demands A Verdict."

We need to make it personal- we need to show people the Gospel.

Go to the nearest town, raise the dead, heal the leper, cast out demons and then tell them the Kingdom has come. The principle is Show them first then let them hear it.

Demonstrate the Kingdom then declare it. We try to do it all with words. We tell them the Gospel and not show it to people how it affects people personally.



Not only do we need to show them the signs, we need to show them the deeds of a changed life.

Friedrich Nietzsche, the philosopher behind Adolph Hitler once said "I would want to be saved if Christians looked more saved." If he had seen changed people we may never have had Adolph Hitler but he never saw them. Mohammad knew Christians but he didn't see changed lives- how much trouble that would have avoided?

We help faith to be verbal when we encourage people to pray to Jesus themselves.

Discourage the use of repeated prayers like the "Sinner's Prayer." Far better, tell a person "You pray for yourself to Jesus" and if you listen to their words you find out where they are. Don't ask them to repeat after you- that's not calling on the name of the Lord. Encourage them to express their own prayers.

Teach them to set their own goals. Start with something small. We have to urge them to go on believing- stretching themselves.



THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN
BIRTH SERIES

Study 4: Be Baptised in Water

Overview



01

What is the meaning of the word 'baptism'?

02

Focus should be on baptism not on the baptiser

03

How was baptism done in the New Testament?

04

What is the role of baptism in the Kingdom?

05

Why do you need repentance before baptism?

06

The two most frequent questions about baptism

01 What is the meaning of the word 'baptism'?

Discussion Question

Why do you think water baptism is so controversial in seeing where baptism fits in being born again?



There are many people who see baptism merely as a human act.

Baptism started with John the Baptist or John the “Plunger”. No one had baptised other than him. But at the dawn of history when people feel dirty inside they wash the outside. E.g. Pontius Pilate was trying to get the rid of the guilt by washing his hands.

It starts with John the Plunger. Baptist means plunger. No one had done baptism before.

It is a fact that when people feel dirty inside, they wash their outside. Pontius Pilate was trying to wash his hands.

Some people get so ridden with guilt that they often take a shower to feel cleaner.

Washing in water for other than a physical cleansing is not unknown in society.



Two things happened to the Levitical Priesthood- they were washed in water and anointed with oil. In the New Covenant all the believers are priests therefore all believers have the washing in the water and the anointing (not with oil but by the Holy Spirit).

There is a possibility (there is no clear evidence yet) that a Gentile that wanted to become part of the Jewish people was circumcised and baptized. And many have argued that John was simply copying what's called proselyte baptism of Jews. If this was the case, John's baptism was very offensive because he was saying to the Jews you need to be baptised implying they were not part of God's people.

We know that John was baptising people in water, into repentance.

You must be in repentance before you are baptised into repentance. The baptism is bringing something into a consummation.

Scripture to read

Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

The baptism in water was doing something to the repentance they were already in. Bringing it to a climax, a completion and a consummation.

That's what baptism does- it brings what you are already in to it's climax and consummation.



So John the Baptist says "You must already be in repentance, if you are then I'll baptise you."

It is like a marriage. Marriage doesn't start the love, but it brings it to a consummation, a climax, a completion.

Baptism is a final settlement, a final break with the old life. I may already be believing in Jesus, but baptism brings me into the consummation of the faith by identifying me with his death and resurrection so that settles it.

02 Focus should be on baptism not on the baptiser

Jesus never baptised- his disciples did. Peter and Paul later refused to baptise. They didn't want the focus to be on the baptiser.

Scriptures to read

1 Corinthians 1:13-17 (NIV)

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. **16** (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) **17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Acts 10:47-48 (NIV)

47 "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." **18** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

It's a good idea to baptise with another person so that no one can say "He baptised me."

It become part of the missionary mandate.

There was no such thing in the early church as an unbaptised Christian. How can someone say "I believe in Jesus' when they don't obey him?

The very first act of trust and obedience in the Christian life is to be baptised.

03 How was baptism done in the New Testament?

Discussion Question

Why is it important to be in water than to have water sprinkled on you?



The word baptism is a Greek word and it means only one thing: drench, dip, dunk, deluge, soak, steep and saturate.

It was written into the Bible Society regulations that whenever the Scriptures were translated into English, the word "Baptizein" must not be translated into English.

We are the only language in the whole world that can't have all the scriptures in our own tongue because if it were translated into any of the words I've mentioned, so many church people would be upset.



Therefore the Greek word "baptizein" has been transliterated- it's not been translated instead of drench, soak, plunge.

In John's Gospel, Jesus is given the same title as a baptiser but Jesus baptises in the Holy Spirit.

Did you know John 3 tells how much water to use in baptism?

Scriptures to read


John 3:23 (NIV)

Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.

Acts 8:34-39 (ESV)

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36** And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **38** And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

The Greek Orthodox would never sprinkle water on a baby, that would make nonsense to the Greek language. How can you immerse by sprinkling? How can you plunge by sprinkling? Because they know Greek.



It was written into the Bible Society regulations that whenever the Scriptures were translated into English, the word "Baptizein" must not be translated into English.

04 What is the role of baptism in the Kingdom?

Baptism in the New Testament has a double meaning.

It has the cleansing meaning- the meaning of a bath. It also has the meaning of being a burial.

It is a bath for those who are dirty and it is a burial for those who are dead. Sprinkling may communicate the meaning of the bath, but it doesn't communicate the meaning of the burial. Being out of sight and under is a sign of being buried.

To be consecrated as a priest we need to be washed of water.



Jesus commanded us to plunge people in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.



And that is what the disciples did from Pentecost onwards it was assumed that a person who responded to the Gospel would start with a bath and a burial rolled into one. With the most common material or medium available on earth, namely water.

There have been places where water is not available. In India during times of drought, they dig a hole in the ground, they line it with a white cotton sheet, they lay the person in it, cover it with a shroud and sprinkle special water until the shroud is wet.

Burial is the final goodbye to the old life- that is why Satan hates baptism because he knows that is the burial.

Peter likened baptism to Noah's flood.

The burial is the final ending of a life. You know you will never see them again, you will never touch them again.



Scriptures to read

1 Peter 3:20-22 (NIV)

20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, **21** and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NIV)

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Peter 3:21 (ESV)

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Baptism saves you and the word 'baptism' means what it means everywhere else.



All the Apostles treat baptism to an event in which God is going something. They liken it to events in water where God also did something for His people.

Paul says baptism is like the crossing of the red sea to the Jew. When the Jews crossed the red sea they were baptised into Moses. It brought them to the climax where Pharaoh was left on the other shore and they had one boss- Moses.

What crossing of the Red Sea was to the Jew in relation to Pharaoh, baptism is to the Christian in relation to Satan.



Scripture to read

Romans 6:3-14 (ESV)

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

05 Why do you need repentance before baptism?

In the New Testament there are 31 passages that tell you why they baptise people and in almost every case the answer is not what a person is doing for God but what God is doing for a person in the baptism.

The emphasis is on instrumental language.

The New Testament does treat baptism as a symbol but as an event. The New Testament talks about what it is for, what it will achieve, what baptism will affect.



Scriptures to read

Mark 16:16 (ESV)

Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

John 3:3 (ESV)

Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'

Jesus was criticising Nicodemus as a Pharisee for refusing John's baptism of repentance.



Whenever you see the word 'water' in John's Gospel it means water. If it means anything else, he qualifies it with an adjective like 'living water.'

Don't try to make the word of God difficult for yourself.

Scriptures to read

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 22: 13-16 (ESV)

13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. **14** And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; **15** for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. **16** And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Acts 9: 13-16 (ESV)

13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. **14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Jesus was criticising Nicodemus as a Pharisee for refusing John's baptism of repentance.



Discussion Question

Why is the difference between believing Jesus died and believing that you have died with Christ?



When Jesus came out of that grave, He had no more contact with Pilate, no more with Satan, no more with Ananias and Caiphas- he was out of their reach. No one can touch him now.

Being a Christian is to be able to say

- "I have been crucified with Him"
- "I have been buried with Him"
- "I have been raised to a new life"

Scriptures to read

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Those historical facts on which our faith is based
need to become our own experience in history.



06 The two most frequent questions about baptism

See Appendix of The Normal Christian Birth on infant baptism.

What about infant baptism?

Cannot fit infant baptism in understanding from the New Testament. It's not the practice concerned about, it's the significance. Cannot apply the New Testament meaning to babies. If baptism is a bath for dirty people, how can it be a bath for a baby who is not yet dirty. If baptism is for someone who is dead, how can it be given to a baby who is not dead. There is no point in baptism until someone is dirty and dead. The trouble if you apply NT teaching to babies, you are left with a superstitious understanding of what goes on in baptism or you have a symbol in baptism.

Martin Luther, John Calvin and Zwingli did not believe in infant baptism. How can you be justified by faith as an adult and also be saved by infant baptism. It doesn't add up.

None of them practiced what they preached. All of them set up State churches. You can't have a State Church that practices believer's baptism because a State Church must welcome as its members all citizens born into its State.

The Reformation was never complete and we were left with a Medieval practice of Christendom—a word that combines Church and State which we have never been completely free from.



If baptism is for the forgiveness of sins, what has that got to do with a baby?
If baptism is for the washing away of your sins what has that got to do with a baby?

Baptism has got nothing to do with getting you out of hell and everything to do with getting you cleaned up.



God is bringing your forgiveness to its consummation, bringing your repentance to consummation, bringing your faith to a climax.

Discussion Question



Do you think someone saved from an evangelism event should be baptised as an adult even if they have been christened as a child? Why or why not?

What about baptismal regeneration?

'Baptismal regeneration' is a phrase for the belief that baptism itself saves. It grew up in the days when people honestly believed that a baby was being saved from hell for being christened.

Don't believe in baptismal regeneration of believers. In the context of a penitent believer that water is a means of grace and will have a spiritual effect on them. That there will be a cleansing and break of life and is part of them being saved from their sins. We need to get away from the idea of being saved from hell or being salvaged from our sins.



THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN
BIRTH SERIES

Study 5:
Receive the
Holy Spirit

Overview



01

How has Greek thinking affected the Western Church?

02

Why you need two baptisms?

03

How do you know if you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit?

04

What is the outward evidence that someone has received the Holy Spirit?

05

Why has someone not received the Holy Spirit?

01 How Greek thinking has affected the Western Church?

Most Christians in the West suffer from having a Western education. It's based on Western philosophy, it's not based on Hebrew thinking. It's difficult to realise how deeply that affects us.

The difference between Greek thinking and Hebrew thinking is this- the Greeks could never relate the physical and the spiritual. These two things were kept so far apart that you could never see them together.

Greeks lived in one of two ways. There were very physical Greeks who lived in the material world and there were very spiritual Greeks who lived in the spiritual world. One hand very self-indulgent people living in the flesh and very ascetic people living in the spirit.

This has had awful effects on Western thinking.

Don't know what to do with Song of Solomons- it's a very physical book. We try to find spiritual meanings with it.

The Hebrew say "Our God who is spirit made the material world so the physical and the spiritual are very closely together therefore miracles can happen everyday."

A physical event can't have a spiritual effect. The Bible- the Tree of good and evil- had a profound spiritual effect.

Taking of the bread and wine.

Now you can begin to see someone in the Hebrew thinking, burying and washing someone in a bath of water can clean them up on the inside. God has not problem using water to cleanse your conscience because He made the water.



Baptism is a physical event with a spiritual effect. That's no problem to God it's only a problem to Western Christians with Greek minds.

In all but two cases they received the Holy Spirit with the laying on hands. There are only two cases where people receive the Holy Spirit without a

We have rediscovered aerobic worship.

The Hebrews worshipped God with their bodies. They danced before the Lord, they clapped their hands, they lifted up their hands in prayer and they laid hands on people to communicate spiritual power.



Scriptures that relate to the laying on of hands. The origin of confirmation- with very few they will receive the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures to read

Mark 10:16 (NIV)

And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Luke 4:40 (NIV)

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

Deuteronomy 34:9 (NIV)

Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Leviticus 1:4 (NIV)

You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you.

1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

02 Why do you need two baptisms?

Discussion Question



Why do you think it is important to lay hands on someone for the baptism of the Holy Spirit after you have water baptised them?

Every Christians needs two baptism. One in water and one in spirit.

If you place too much emphasis on water baptism you will be disappointed. Water baptism deals with your past. It washes the past away and it leaves you clean and empty. That's a dangerous spiritual condition to be in. Some of the most miserable Christians are clean and empty. Jesus said it is dangerous to clean your life up and leave it empty.

Scripture to read

Matthew 12:43-45 (NIV)

When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.

As soon as people were baptised in water in the NT, then they lay hands on them to be filled with.

If you're just clean and empty, that's a very dangerous position to be in. No wonder people are miserable, they don't have the pleasures of sin and they don't have the pleasures of salvation- they're locked in the middle.

Discussion Question

What are some other non-biblical terms we use as Christians?

You need two baptisms- one to deal with your past and one to deal with your future. One to get your life empty and cleaned and the other to be filled.

Believers need to enter into the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Just as Easter is repeated in the believer's life, Pentecost needs to be repeated. Everything that happened 2000 years ago needs to happen in a believer's life. I am to crucified, to be buried, I am to be raised and I am to be filled.

Jesus is called in the bible our trailblazer- the one who went ahead first. There is a very real sense that we follow Jesus in the Way- which

Receiving the Holy Spirit:

Is NOT the same as repentance.

Is NOT the same as believing

Discussion Question

Do you agree with the statement "If nothing happens when you believe in Jesus then you haven't received the Holy Spirit"?

There is not a single case in the New Testament of not someone receiving the Holy Spirit and other people knowing it. It was clearly as definite as having an attack of influenza.

One of the main reasons for the confusion is that we have transferred the word receive from the third person of the trinity (the Holy Spirit) to the second person of the trinity (Jesus Christ).

All through the Gospels it says Jesus came to the Jews.

He gave authority (he could not give power) to become sons of God. All through the Gospels some people received him and some did not receive him. After Jesus ascended to heaven, no one asked to receive Jesus. Instead the Apostles said to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father.

We have taken believing Jesus and receiving the Spirit and we have rolled it into one and this has caused a tremendous amount of Pentecost.

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he is not of Him.

We belong to God and are His children because He has given us His spirit.

You cannot know if someone has been justified until they have received the Holy Spirit.

God doesn't give His spirit to the world, only a true believer can receive his Spirit.

None of the other three steps can give you proof.

Scriptures to read

Romans 8:9 (NIV)

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

John 1:11-12 (NIV)

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

03 How do you know if you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit?

It's possible to believe in Jesus without receiving the Spirit.

Acts 8 and Acts 19 where Paul had to ask certain disciples.

Discussion Question



In Acts 8, how did anyone know that the new believers had not received the Holy Spirit?

Only if the reception of the Spirit is accompanied by outward evidence. Receiving the Spirit in the New Testament was always an experience.

Date when you were baptised in water and when you are baptised in the Holy Spirit. Both events are so definite so.

Receiving the Holy Spirit Bible.

Cornelius happens before water baptism most after water baptism. Praying is associated with receiving the Holy Spirit.

Another word is renewal. When you take a piece of old antique furniture then you renew it and restore it to its original condition.

Discussion Question



How do you know if you have received the Holy Spirit?

The Peter package- repent be baptised.

Look at language there are whole lot of nouns to receive the Holy Spirit- the promise, gift, deposit and renewal.

When you have the Holy Spirit you find yourself making a lot of melody in your heart.

In heaven there will be a lot of love and fellowship and when you get filled with the Holy Spirit there is a lot of love and fellowship. It turns a church into a foretaste of heaven. It's a deposit- it's God's down payment. It's a little bit of heaven to enjoy now.

Renewal is God is restoring you to your original condition.



There's a wealth of verbs to nouns because they are more dynamic: given, received, baptised (means plunged), filled, fall on, come upon and poured out upon. Note the liquid words that are used, seal (when a man had bought a property he had put a seal on it- it's a visible mark of belonging to someone), other people know we belong to God, anoint. As the Old Testament Kings and Priests they were anointed with oil.

So many Christians don't know it's happened or not they use these words. Find it natural to use the words. The kind of language you use with an event with outward evidence.

04 What is the outward evidence that someone has received the Holy Spirit?

How do you know when your petrol tank is filled?

There is an overflow. You only know when a person is full will overflow.

When you are full of anger, it comes out of your mouth. When you are full of sorrow you howl. Whatever you are full of the mouth is the overflow. When you get the Spirit, you cry out Abba Father. It's a cry out.

Greek word *cradzine*- when you shout out involuntarily. When you cry out "Abba Father" your spirit is bearing witness.

Use languages instead of tongues.

On the day of Pentecost, God gives languages.

Must I speak in tongues makes you reluctant versus may I speak in tongues?

It's the only gift that edifies us. Spontaneous spiritual speech is a form of prophesying. It overflows from the mouth is proof is the gift of your spirit is yours.

Scriptures to read

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Acts 10:44-48 (NIV)

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, **47** "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." **48** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

First by praying is one way of seeking

"We must baptize them" After someone had repented, believed and been baptized, then they sought the gift. And they sought the gift in two ways

Scriptures to read

Luke 11:13 (NIV)

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 3:21-22 (NIV)

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened **22** and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Second is to lay hands on someone

Moses laid hands on 70 elders and they received the Holy Spirit and they prophesied.



We must baptize them". After someone had repented, believed and been baptized, then they sought the gift. And they sought the gift in two ways

Scripture to read

Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, **2** instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Discussion Question



Why do you think the best time to lay hands is at the beginning of the Christian's life?

The longer the Christian goes without that gift the harder it gets. The problem is some of you are so worried about your own spiritual condition.

05 Why has someone not received the Holy Spirit?

- They may not have fully repented
- They may not have acted in faith towards the Lord
- They may not have been baptized into water into the name of the Lord Jesus
- They may not know what to expect
- Some people don't know how to receive a gift (receiving is not passive it's active): You don't know you have a gift until you use it.

You don't know what you have until you use it. 

Some of the fears people have about receiving the Holy Spirit:

1. Fear of emotion
2. Fear of losing self-control
3. Fear of what other people might think

There are also people who have had false teaching in two directions:

If you get tongues, it's from Satan. That teaching is very near the unforgivable sin. The unforgivable sin is to call the work of the Holy Spirit the work of Satan. If that is said to someone the fear that produces. Jesus knew we would have that fear and he said "Which of you asking your father for bread would give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9)
The only people that should fear a tongue from Satan are those who have been dabbling in the occult and have not repented of it fully.

You are commanded to covet the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

2. The other fear attached to false teaching is that all these supernatural things are not for today and that are for the New Testament only. Evangelical tradition has not included the gifts of the Spirit. The reason is that the evangelical tradition goes back to the Reformation. In the Reformation they rediscovered Jesus Christ, they did not rediscover the Holy Spirit. That has left the Protestants with a funny Trinity “Father, Son and Holy Scriptures.” Many evangelical Christians know the Holy Scripture better than they know the Holy Spirit. What would you think if someone said they knew your letters better than they knew you and yet said they loved you. You should know the Holy Spirit better than you know the Holy Scripture because the person is more important than the book and our Trinity is Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit releases inhibited emotions.





THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN
BIRTH SERIES

Study 6: Saved at Last

Overview



01

Why do you need to unlearn the sinner's prayer?

02

Is it once saved always saved?

01 Why do we need to unlearn the sinner's prayer

Unlearning is harder than learning. We all need to unlearn things we have been taught at church.

We have all grown up under preaching and teaching that we grew up that we assumed was right but may not be supported by the bible.



An example of the Sinner's Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner I believe You died for my sins. Right now I turn from my sins and open up the door of my heart and life. I receive you as a my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

4 Inadequacies of the Sinner's Prayer

1. There is little mention of repentance. What sins is the person turning away from? Repentance is specific in the New Testament.
2. There is faith but it doesn't say "I believe in you Jesus" it says "I receive you" which puts a person in the wrong track
3. There is nothing about water or Holy Spirit baptism
4. God is not mentioned- You repent towards God and not Jesus. You go against God's commandments and therefore you can only repent towards God.

The prayer only gives 1 and ½ steps and it says “Thank you for saving me” as if the person is saved.

The Sinner’s Prayer has been used by the majority of people making decisions for Christ in the Western world and it has given them one and a half out of the four steps that in the New Testament constitute new birth.



Discussion Question

Have you seen many people who come into church but they have not gone through the four steps of the Normal Christian birth?



What is the difference between a sinner’s prayer salvation and the New Testament definition of salvation?

Saved from what? Common misconceptions

1.Saved from hell? This is not the NT understanding- it’s come from American revivalism. People are hearing the Gospel as a fire escape. This is not the way the apostles preached. They were concerned more about life than death. Jesus did not come to save us from hell- he is called Jesus because he came to save us from our sins. Jesus came to take away the sins of the world. Until those sins have been taken away from your life, you are not fully saved, you are not fully salvaged- to be restored to the original image. You are being saved for a sanctified life, for a holy life and being saved for service. God is in the process of recycling people. Salvation is a process that we have begun but it is not complete yet- we are all being saved.

I'm not what I ought to be and I'm not what I'm going to be but I am not what I was- I am in the process of being saved.

We are not just being saved from our sins, we are being saved to something and for something.

God is able to complete us with what he has begun.

The Gospel is concerned with getting people across the line. But a disciple is on the Way.

Jesus didn't ask us to get decisions he asked us to make disciples, teaching them all Jesus commanded them to observe.

Discussion Question



Has the object of your evangelism been to make converts or to make disciples?

Justification is only the way to sanctification.

You come to Jesus as your Saviour- or you come to Jesus as your Saviour and Lord.

Baptism in water and spirit- it is to help you to be salvaged from your sins.

Are you interested in the minimum (a ticket to heaven) or the maximum (be restored to your original condition so God can use us).

Do you want to be saved from your sins?

Do you want to overcome bad habits?

Do you want to live right?

Christianity is not saying to people you must live right, it's saying "You can live right."

The difference between Christianity and all other religions is that all other religions say sanctification first, justification second. The Good News of Jesus it's the other way round. He accepts you as a son or a daughter than he puts you right. He only justifies us to sanctify us.

Scripture to read

John 8:1-11 (NLT)

1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, **2** but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. **3** As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. **4** "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. **5** The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" **6** They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. **7** They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" **8** Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. **9** When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. **10** Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" **11** "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

2. An Insurance Policy? Are we going to sell an insurance policy or a holy life? They will not know where baptism in water and the Holy Spirit will fit in. Salvation is a process- it goes to glory when he puts you in a new heaven and a new earth and everything is put into it's original condition. We need all those four things to be salvaged. Salvaged is much nearer the word salvation than the word safe.

This will take years but God doesn't leave the job half done.

02 Is it once saved always saved?

The trouble is people want to feel safe as quickly as possible.

John Bunyan noted in Pilgrim's Progress that there is a path to hell even from the gates of heaven.

We need to take seriously every writer in the New Testament that it is possible to lose your salvation.

Scriptures to read

Hebrews 6:4-8 (NIV)

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, **5** who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age **6** and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. **7** Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. **8** But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

There were 2.5 million people who got out of Egypt and only two of them got into Canaan.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (cont...)

8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. **9** We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. **10** And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. **11** These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. **12** So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! **13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Discussion Question



What if you haven't gone through all the four steps of the normal Christian birth?

Don't be discouraged- go after the other steps. There is always more. The worst kind of Christians to deal with are those who think they have arrived.

Be good midwives and look after the spiritual babies to make sure they are restored to God's plan.



About David Pawson

David is considered to be one of the world's finest biblical expositors. Translations of David's teachings continue to grow with extensive projects currently focused in countries including Brazil, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, China and Indonesia, just to name a few.

David was passionate about teaching the Bible and believed every teacher has a responsibility to expound the truth and expose error. He encourages everyone to read the Bible for themselves, not verse by verse but to read each verse in the context in which they were written. Too many people misquote Bible verses by taking them out of context. David teaches that a 'text out of context becomes a pretext' to a whole new and wrong meaning to that for which the verse was written.

Best known for his series Unlocking the Bible, David taught that the Bible is not one book but a library of books. Each book is different, written by many different writers. To understand each book of the Bible you need understand firstly 'Who' wrote the book, and secondly 'Why' the book was written. In this series David gives us the keys to unlock the Bible for ourselves.

For all of David Pawson's Bible Teaching go to:

<https://www.davidpawson.org>

