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W A T E R S P I R I T F I R E

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with **water** unto 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**.

In this verse of scripture, John the Baptist is introducing Christ to his disciples. He tells them that he baptizes with water unto repentance, but that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Do you believe that there are three baptisms that every disciple or follower of Christ must go through and live in? They are listed here in this portion of scripture. The baptism of water, the Spirit and fire.

Baptize - the Greek word is 907 **baptízo** (baptidzo) – "submerge" ; to immerse (literally, "dip under"), be overwhelmed. Strong's Concordance of the Bible

To be Baptized is to be immersed. It is to be submerged into something and overwhelmed by it. We are called by God to be submerged, immersed and overwhelmed in water, the Spirit and fire. We are called of God to be down in the **waters** of God's washing Word through repentance, in the **Spirit** of God's leading and in the **fire** of God's holiness. It is important to see that all three of these baptisms are initial and ongoing or daily. The disciple of Christ is to live daily from the position of immersion in Christ's water of washing repentance, the Holy Spirit's leading and the fire of the Father's all consuming holiness.

The three baptisms are expressions of the trinity of God. The water (word) baptism is the Son, the Spirit baptism is the Holy Spirit and the fire baptism is the Father. They also represent three stages of growth, as the disciple of Christ learns to live his or her life immersed, submerged, overwhelmed, flooded, drown in more and more of God.

Christ is the first baptism. He is revealed in scripture as the living water and the washing water of the Word of God.

Revelation 19:13

*13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**.*

Christ is the washing Word of repentance unto regeneration. His Word convinces of sin, creates conviction in the soul and leads us into repentance. It is this repentance that brings us into spiritual birth. We must be born again!

John 3:5

*Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

We must to be born of water and of the Spirit. We are born first naturally of water in the womb and must then be born spiritually through the washing waters of the word of God through repentance. We must pass through water to be born naturally and pass through the waters of Christ's word to be born spiritually. So water is the sign of the first baptism and water baptism is a picture of our immersion into repentance and cleansing from sin. It is a first time altar experience and an ongoing, daily, continual experience, as we save our souls by living daily under the waters of conviction producing ongoing soul reflection and repentance.

Ephesians 5:25-26

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her; 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word,***

Titus 3:5-7

*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,** 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

We are regenerated, washed of our sin through repentance. This repentance is initial. However, it must also become our daily experience. It must become our life style. It is the abiding place of the Christian to live in contrition, contriteness of spirit. It is a humble place. But it is this condition of heart that the Father will not despise.

Isaiah 66:2

*For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the Lord. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a **contrite spirit,** And who trembles at My word.*

Psalms 51:17

*17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a **contrite heart**—
These, O God, **You will not despise.***

It is the repentance water baptism, that produces right standing with God and opens the way for the second and third baptisms.

When John baptised Jesus in the Jordan river, Christ rose up out of the waters of repentance to receive the baptism of the Spirit. The sign of the Spirit's baptism was the descent of a dove above His head. The first baptism of repentance, with the sign of water, leads into the second baptism of the Spirit with the sign of the descending dove. The sign of the second baptism shows up at the first baptism to indicate the need of succession from the first baptism to the second. One baptism leads into the next. You do not have the second one without the first, nor the third without the second. Each of the three baptisms leads into or facilitates the way into the next. A, B, C, steps into spiritual growth and maturity.

John 2:7-11

*Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted **the water that was made wine,** and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*

Jesus's first miracle was a sign. It was the sign of the water of repentance being transformed into the wine of the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

*And **do not be drunk with wine,** in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit.***

Acts 2:13 -16

*Others mocking said, “**They are full of new wine.**”*

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

These were drunk on the wine of the Spirit. They were immersed in the Spirit, overwhelmed and drunk on the Spirit of God. After His death and resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem and He breathed upon them to baptise them in the Holy Spirit. What was the sign that accompanied this Spirit baptism? It was the sign of tongues of fire resting above their heads. It is a sign that reveals or points to the third baptism, the baptism of fire. The work of the repentance washing baptism is to facilitate the work of the Spirit baptism and the work of the Spirit baptism is to facilitate the fire baptism. So the sign of fire accompanies the Spirit to reveal the purpose of the Spirit. The Spirit is typified in scripture as both new wine and oil. He is the wine of joy and fuel oil that if received and obeyed will kindle and keep the fire of the Father’s holiness burning in our hearts.

John 20:22

*And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit.**”*

Acts 2:3

*Then there appeared to them **divided tongues, as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them.*

The Son reveals or points to the nature and character of the Spirit and the Spirit points to the nature and character of the Father, holiness and holiness is typified in scripture by consuming fire.

Exodus 24:17

*The sight of the glory of the Lord was like **a consuming fire** on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.*

Hebrews 12:29

*For our God is **a consuming fire.***

Hebrews 12:14

*Pursue peace with all people, and **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord:*

Hebrews 12:10

*Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they (our human fathers) indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He (God the Father) for our profit, that we may be **partakers of His holiness.***

Romans 6:22

*But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.***

The three baptisms are given by God to move the believer to an end. The end game is maturity, the fruit of holiness. It is the nature and character of the Father. It is the repentance water baptism, that produces right standing with God and opens the way for the second and third baptisms. With the second baptism, the Spirit baptism, we are led daily by the Spirit of God. He becomes our guide. Paul says, “*Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh*”. It is this daily taking up of our cross and following Christ by obedience to the Spirit, that fuels the third baptism of fire. The baptism of Fire is to be immersed in the character and nature of the Father. It is to live on fire for God. To have a love fire in your heart that is daily fed by the fuel of the

Holy Spirit's leading. The end of this walk is holiness. It is the reward, the fruit of maturity and this maturity is to become a partaker of the divine nature. To become His Sons and Daughters, to be made perfect in one. To have intimacy with Christ. To know Christ and have Christ know you. Christ becomes your great reward! True Christianity is not boring!

2 Peter 1:4

*by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

John 17:20, 23

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be **made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.***