

## ***Baptized in Water***

By F.T. Paterson

**On the day of Pentecost when the Lord moved in such a sovereign manner many were convicted in their hearts, believed and received Jesus as their saviour. They questioned the apostles saying,** “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:37-39)

**Matt. 3:5-6, “John the Baptist came baptizing unto repentance and many came to him confessing their sins and were baptized.”**

**Matt 3:13-15,** “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.”

**Baptism was a direct command of the Lord just before He was taken up into Heaven.**

**Matt 28:19,** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

**There is no doubt that it is the Lord’s will for us to be baptized. It is our identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection. As we go down into the water we are identified with his death and burial. Coming out of the water signifies our identification in His resurrection. Some would have us believe that baptism is just a form that identifies us with joining a church or some such ceremony. The word of God is clear that baptism is more than a form or type without any real significance or power in our walk with God.**

**Rom 6:3-4,** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**”

The purpose in our being baptized is so we will walk in newness of life; a change should take place in our lives.

**Rom 6:5-6,** “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, **that henceforth we should not serve sin.**”

**The question then arises, "How do we enter into this?"**

**Rom 6:11,** "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**We are told to reckon ourselves dead to the ways of sin and alive to the ways of God. To reckon means to consider or expect ourselves dead to sin and consider and expect ourselves alive unto God.**

**Rom 6:13,** “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

**Certainly the Lord empowers us to walk with Him but there is a responsibility on our part to not yield ourselves to sinful acts.**

**Rom 6:16**, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

**We have a choice in our relationship with God, we can just float along with little commitment or we can claim the strength of the Lord and walk in away that is pleasing to the Lord. This is called overcoming and there are many wonderful promises to the overcomers in Revelation 2 and 3. We cannot do this in ourselves but through the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit we can overcome any temptation that comes our way. 1 Cor 10:13**, "There hath no temptation take you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

**James 1:12**, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

**There is a beautiful example of what baptism means in 1 Cor 10:1-2**, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" **Israel's deliverance from Egypt, a type of the world, is a type of salvation, and crossing the Red Sea is a type of baptism. When Israel crossed the sea there was a separation between them and Egypt. This is speaking about our separation from the ways of the world. Baptism is the putting away of those things which keep us from a mature walk with God and is in preparation for a sanctified spiritual walk. It is not just a rite of passage we do when we reach a certain age, neither do we need to be perfect in order to partake; rather it is something to help us be the very best that God desires us to be.**