



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Week 2—Message to the World

1. Pastor Rick talked about the baptisms associated with Noah, Moses, and Jonah. What was the message from God represented by each one? How does our water baptism compare to each of these?
2. Is water baptism a way to wash away your sins? Why or why not? Exactly what is water baptism for? If a person is not water baptized, are they even a Christian? Have you been water baptized? If not, why not?
3. Pastor Rick said that by being water baptized, we show that we belong to God. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20. What does this verse say that we are? What does that mean? Discuss how this changes your outlook on how you use and treat your body.
4. Think about the visual of water baptism. How does it visually represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. Is this the same baptism as water baptism? How is it different? What exactly is the baptism by the Holy Spirit? According to this verse, how many Christians receive the baptism by the Holy Spirit? When does it happen? What is the connection between Spirit baptism and water baptism?

ANSWERS

1. Noah's baptism through the flood was a message of God's deliverance from His judgment. Moses baptism through the Red Sea was a message about God providing salvation from Egypt. Jonah's baptism in the belly of the fish and then being spit out onto the land was a message of resurrection in order to live a life of obedience. These three things are all symbolized in our water baptism: We trusted Christ so we are delivered from God's judgment, we were delivered from our sin and given salvation, and we have been resurrected with Christ to live a new kind of life in obedience to God.
2. Water baptism in no way washes away sin, the Bible says only blood (death) removes sin which is why Jesus died and only His shed blood on the cross washes away our sin when we trust Him as our Savior. Water baptism is a symbol that demonstrates that we have been delivered from God's judgment and saved from our sins and given a new life. It is like a wedding ring. Just like your wedding ring is simply a symbol of the commitment you made at your wedding ceremony, so baptism is a symbol of our salvation. You do not have to wear a wedding ring to be married just like you do not have to be water baptized to be a Christian. But what would you communicate to your spouse if you told them you did not want to wear your wedding ring? Water baptism is simply us making a declaration that we are on God's team, that we are part of the family.
3. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 says that we are God's temple, the Holy Spirit lives in us. In the Old Testament God dwelled in a literal, physical building: the temple in Jerusalem. Now he lives inside of us, we have taken the place of the temple in Jerusalem.
4. When you are water baptized, you start out standing up, just like Jesus was hanging on the cross. Then just like he died and was buried, you are then submerged into the water, like being buried. Then just like Christ rose from the dead to new life, you are brought out of the water showing that you have a new life.
5. This baptism is not the same as water baptism, this is spiritual baptism. In water baptism, a person baptizes you, in this baptism the Holy Spirit is the person who is doing the baptizing. In water baptism, you are immersed into physical water, in spiritual baptism you are immersed into and made part of the body of Christ. Every person who trusts Christ as their Savior receives this baptism the moment you trusted in Him. The Holy Spirit took you and spiritually put you into the place in the body of Christ that he wanted to be. You would not even know this happened when you believed unless God told us in the Bible because it was a spiritual transaction and we do not perceive the spiritual world with our physical senses. Your water baptism is actually a representation of this spiritual baptism.