

Laying down the *Foundation*

PART 2



Compiled by:

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Published by:

Berashith Ministry

© 2021

First edition March 2021 Version 1.0

Second edition July 2024 Version 2.0

Third edition May 2025 Version 3.0

Cover designed by Utilisoft

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Table of Contents

FOREWORD	1
Background	2
THE DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION	9
1. REPENTANCE	11
False Repentance	24
THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE	27
Returning to God	29
2. FAITH TOWARD GOD	31
The Nature of Faith	31
Full Salvation	38
Faith and Works	44
BORN FROM FREE- AND SLAVE WOMAN	49
An Old Testament Allegory	59
Ministers of the New Covenant	61
The Nature of Grace	65
Faith Without Works Is Dead	74
3. DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS	75
Someone, In and Unto	78
One Baptism	79
Different Baptisms	80
GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN	89
Created for a Purpose	90
THE PACKAGE DEAL	98
Born-Again Baptism	102

Saul of Tarsus	107
The Significance of this Baptism	112
Peter's Teaching after receiving the Holy Spirit	117
The Believer's Baptism	121
John the Baptist	122
Water Baptism	123
Baptism by Jesus	139
A Symbol of God's Approval	140
The Holy Spirit	145
A Personal Warning	152
Requirements For Baptism IN THE HOLY SPIRIT	158
<i>THE ESSENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM</i>	159
<i>SPEAKING IN TONGUES</i>	168
The Tower of Babel	173
Pentecost	174
The Power of the Holy Spirit	176
<i>More Reasons to speak in Tongues</i>	178

LAYING DOWN THE FOUNDATION

Part 2: A Doctrinal Foundation

FOREWORD

In Part 1, we discussed the Personal Foundation to be laid down, which is Jesus Christ.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11 KJV

The apostle Paul remarks in Hebrews that he has much to say, but it is hard to be uttered because we are dull of hearing. We ought to be teachers (rabbis), but are still on milk instead of strong meat (Hebrews 5:11-12). Scriptures are clear that all believers must grow spiritually to become God's servants, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfil any assignment (2 Timothy 3:17).

Yashuah teaches that the only way to ensure the house will last during the storm is "*to come to Me and hear My sayings and doeth them.*" He further instructs us to dig deep and lay the foundation on a rock. When the storm beats vehemently upon the house, it will not shake, for it was founded upon a rock - the "**Petra Rock**", which points to Yashuah HaMashiach (1 Corinthians 3:11).

But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the storm did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great. Luke 6:49 KJV

The storms of life are beating viciously against the spiritual houses of many believers and ruining them because the foundations of those houses were not founded upon the “**petra** rock” – Yashuah HaMashiach. Furthermore, the doctrinal foundation is not taught and applied by the Body of Christ. Our foundations are easily shaken by storms, causing the houses to tumble! The purpose of this book is to lay down the foundation on the “**petra**” rock, which will outlast all storms.

BACKGROUND

Paul mentions the importance of moving unto full spiritual maturity and then lists seven very important principles of the Doctrine of Christ to enable the believer to lay down the foundation.

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance** from dead works, and of **faith** toward God, ² Of the doctrine of **baptisms**, and of **laying on of hands**, and of **resurrection** of the dead, and of eternal **judgment**. ³ And this will we do, if God **permit**. Hebrews 6:1-3 KJV*

The principles thus are:

- Repentance of dead works.
- Faith toward God.
- Doctrine of baptisms.
- Laying on of hands.

- Resurrection of the dead.
- Eternal judgment.
- And last but not least – “If God Permit”.

Any foundation must first be inspected and approved before the structure of the building can be erected. If the building inspector is indeed satisfied, he approves of it by using a stamp of authority. Similarly, Adonai first needs to **permit** (*approve*) the restored foundation by using a signet ring as His stamp of approval!

Maturity

Is it sufficient for my salvation to believe with my heart and confess with my mouth that Christ is my Saviour?

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. Romans 10:10 MKJV

This is where most believers are being misled. Believing and confessing are only the starting point. The moment we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths, we do indeed make it unto salvation but we are still immature and on milk.

For everyone partaking of milk is unskilful in the Word of Righteousness, for he is still an infant. Hebrews 5:13 MKJV

Paul says we have become too dull to understand. It is mostly our human traditions that stand in the way of understanding and growing to maturity.

We have much to say about this topic although it is difficult to explain, because you have become too dull and sluggish to understand. ¹² For you should already be professors instructing others by now; but instead, you need to be taught from the beginning the basics of God's prophetic oracles! You're like children still needing milk and not yet ready to digest solid food. ¹³ For every spiritual infant who lives on milk is not yet pierced by the revelation of righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, whose spiritual senses perceive heavenly matters. And they have been adequately trained by what they've experienced to emerge with understanding of the difference between what is truly excellent and what is evil and harmful. Hebrews 5:11-14 TPT

God's breath will empower us to receive His instructions and corrections and will bring us to godliness. Godliness is to be like God – fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfil any assignment.

God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, for it is God-breathed. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. ¹⁷ Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 TPT

By the time we reach this point of full maturity, we should never be drawn into meaningless arguments. Such arguments only bring more division into the Body of Christ and we need to avoid this at all costs.

Be committed to teach the believers all these things when you are with them in the presence of the Lord. Instruct them to never be drawn into meaningless arguments, or tear each other down with useless words that only harm others. 2 Timothy 2:14 TPT

As Adonai's servants, we need to show great patience to the immature. Instead of being argumentative, we should help others see the truth.

*For a true servant of our Lord Jesus will not be argumentative but gentle toward all and skilled in helping others see the truth, **having great patience toward the immature.** ²⁵ Then with meekness you'll be able to carefully enlighten those who argue with you so they can see God's gracious gift of repentance and be brought to the truth. ²⁶ **This will cause them to rediscover themselves and escape from the snare of Satan who caught them in his trap so that they would carry out his purposes.** 2 Timothy 2:24-26 TPT*

This scripture holds the key to the very first doctrinal principle found in the Bible. It will be discussed under "Repentance and Dead Works".

On A Rock

The only way to reach spiritual maturity is to ensure that the foundation of the house is built on a rock. This is not just any rock, but the cliff – the "**Petra Rock**". As discussed in Part 1, Peter declared that Christ was the Messiah, and on that Rock, Petra, we must build the temple. The pattern for laying down the foundation is hidden in this scripture. Note the following four important aspects which are part of laying down the foundation of our temples.

- First, there was a **confrontation** when Yashuah asked, "Who do you say I am?"
- Then followed a **revelation** when, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Peter declared Christ was the Messiah.

- Peter responded with an **acknowledgment**. Very important that he did not quench the Holy Spirit by refusing the acknowledgment, but embraced it.
- Then, Peter made a public **confession** of his faith.

We have confidence that this “**temple**” will stand and last when the storm comes, because of Jesus’ promise.

*He who comes to me and **hears** my words and **do** it (acts on them) is like a person building a house, who dug a deep hole to lay the foundation on **rock**. When the storm comes, and pushed against that house but couldn’t shake it, because it had been founded on the rock. Luke 6:47-48*

The opposite is therefore also true. He who does not **HEAR** and does not **DO** and does not **dig deep**, when the storm comes, his house will surely collapse.

The word used in Luke 6 for rock is “**petra**” and it refers to “The Rock”, Yashuah HaMashiach. What Christ was saying to Peter and His disciples was, “Based on the revelation which you have received of who I am, on that revelation I will build my ecclesia.”

Yehôvâh Elohim wants sons and daughters for Himself. We are all born from a corruptible seed and need a born-again experience. This time from an incorruptible seed. He adopted us, and when the Holy Spirit abides in us, we

cry out, “ABBA FATHER!”, that is “Daddy” (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). To enable us to grow unto full maturity, we need a strong, deep foundation. This can only be done when we preach Christ and bring every person into full understanding of the truth.

Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labor with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:28-29 TPT

Only now can the entire building be erected and continually grow until it rises up unto completion. What an amazing statement Paul made to the Ephesians that the Holy Spirit would transform every one of us into the Holy of Holies – His dwelling place!

This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under his supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself.²² This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you! Ephesians 2:21-22 TPT

I trust that you now understand the assignment each of us has to fulfil and the purpose of this book. Before we can be transformed into the Holy of

Holies, we need to lay down the foundation. Only then can the building, which is under construction, reach full completion.

This is when we, *the Temple of Adonai*, are transformed into the Holy of Holies, where Yashuah HaMashiach can dwell permanently.

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THE DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance** from dead works, and of **faith** toward God, ² Of the doctrine of **baptisms**, and of **laying on of hands**, and of **resurrection** of the dead, and of eternal **judgment**. ³ And this will we do, if God **permit**. Hebrews 6:1-3 KJV*

This is our main text. Faith towards God can follow only after repentance of dead works. It is a pity that the importance and true meaning of repentance are not clearly explained in the Body of Christ. If we do not meet Christ in repentance, we will most definitely meet Him in judgment!

Anything we do without faith is considered dead works. I think we can assume that 98% of all human work is the result of self-effort. The Bible teaches that all self-effort is dead works because it does not originate from faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

*And it is **impossible to please God without faith**. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6 NLT*

A shocking truth is that we are under a curse when we act in self-righteousness and self-effort!

*For as many as are out of works of the Law, **these are under a curse**; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them.' Galatians 3:10 TPT*

If you, for example, take pride in the success of your business because of your own efforts and plans, you must repent of dead works to come out from under that curse. I was deceived for many years to accomplish everything on my own. Then God revealed this profound Biblical truth to me.

Having begun in the Spirit, do you now perfect yourself in the flesh?

Galatians 3:3 MKJV

We often begin our newborn life in the spirit but somewhere along the line become focused on the self and self-efforts and try achieving perfection in the flesh.

*O foolish Galatians, who **bewitched** you not to obey the truth, to whom before your eyes Jesus Christ was written among you crucified? Galatians 3:1 MKJV*

Being “*bewitched*” means that someone has cast a spell on you. We have been bewitched to ignore Christ’s work on the cross and thus nullify Adonai’s mercy and grace and we dilute His Blood by adding fleshly attempts to it.

**Christ cried out on Calvary,
“It is done! Tetelestai! It is Finished!”
Nothing can be added!**

We need to believe that Yehôvâh Elohim exists and that He has already paid the full price for us. The Christian life is a walk of faith. Any effort, task, assignment, or action we take must originate from faith. This is the only way to please Adonai.

1. REPENTANCE

The first doctrinal stone listed is repentance, and the last is judgment. If we do not willingly meet Adonai in repentance, we will surely meet Him in judgment. Repentance is the birth canal for salvation.

Repentance in Greek is “***metanoia***”. It means a “**change of the mind**”, a complete conversion, a turn, a change of behaviour, or a new course; a completely altered view of life and behaviour. The Hebrew meaning of repentance is “***teshuvah***”, which means “**to turn around**”. When we combine these definitions, we get a complete picture of the meaning of repentance: “***To turn around and walk in a new direction, on a new course, with a renewed mind.***”

Paul warns us to not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 MKJV

Some people mistake repentance for an act of emotion, but it is merely a choice. It springs from the will and not from the emotions. Emotional repentance results in falling back into the old ways. An emotional experience does not last because the “***will***” did not change. Renewing of the mind suggests an intellectual act. It means we think differently, which brings about

a change in our behaviour and results in bearing the fruit of the Spirit. This will be the evidence of true repentance.

Faith and Repentance

Faith follows repentance, as proven by this scripture:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15 MKJV

Luke recorded twice that we must repent so as to not perish (Luke 13:3, 5). The opening statements of both Christ and John the Baptist were to repent.

Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

(Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Mark 6:12; Luke 13:3, 5)

When 120 men started praying in tongues after the Holy Spirit had been outpoured on them in the Upper Room, the people surrounding them were cut to the heart, asking, “*What shall we do?*”

Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 MKJV

My heart is broken because deception in our churches withholds many from entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter is clear that we must “*Repent, be baptized and receive the gift!*” The Messiah longs to freely give us the most precious gift – the gift of the Holy Spirit! Yet most believers live their daily lives without Him.

Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19 MKJV

Those who struggle in their faith have possibly never met the conditions of repentance.

The necessity and meaning of true repentance have never been explained to me by any church leader. God revealed it to me. I am a living witness that, after repentance, my life radically changed for the good, and I experienced Godly breakthroughs.

When ministering to the brokenhearted, I realise just how many people are exhausted from struggling through life because of broken relationships, financial problems, strife, envy, jealousy, rebellion, stubbornness and many more. They say they have forgiven those who wronged them, but they are still living in resentment and unforgiveness. True repentance happens when we meet our Lord in the Courts of Heaven, where the prosecutor, satan, accuses us of our weaknesses and sins day and night. After we have truly repented, Christ, our Redeemer, applies His Blood to our indictment. Only then can satan's legal rights in our lives be cancelled, and we can escape the snare of the devil.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Revelation 12:10b NIV

As soon as the brokenhearted repent, changes become visible in their lives. Miracles of physical healing follow, confirmed by amazed physicians,

agreeing that the healing could only be a miracle. Relationships are restored, new business opportunities break through, and broken souls are healed. I encourage you to follow these steps of repentance. They are the key to unlocking heavenly blessings in our lives.

- In an audible voice, **forgive** those who hated you, cheated on you, robbed you, talked about you, criticised you, abandoned you, used you, rejected you, hated you, betrayed you, deceived you and neglected you.
- Give up the **resentment** (*bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly*) towards those you have just forgiven.
- **Bless** them with heavenly blessings and with a life of abundance.
- Now release **resurrection power**, which is Dunamis Power, in and over your soul and immune system. Declare and decree that your soul and immune system are strong and excellent. This is deemed necessary for the next step.
- **Bind the strongman** and summon him to pay back sevenfold what he has stolen.

But if he is found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the goods of his house. Proverbs 6:31 KJV

- We should never judge others, for no man has all the facts or knows the conditions of another person's heart. We ask the Righteous Judge for **justice and righteousness**.

What I teach you today is trustworthy and true! I guarantee freedom and blessings when you sincerely follow these steps.

Repentance is God's requirement for entering His Kingdom and living a life of abundance!

*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**:³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.*
Acts 17:30-32 KJV

The Snare of Satan

Satan keeps us in his snare of deception because of our lack of knowledge. Once the veil has been lifted from our spiritual eyes by grace, we need to be patient with those who are still captive and immature. With meekness, the mature need to help the immature see the truth.

*For a true servant of our Lord Jesus will not be argumentative but gentle toward all and skilled in helping others see the truth, **having great patience toward the immature**.²⁵ Then with meekness you'll be able to carefully enlighten those who argue with you so they can see God's gracious gift of repentance and be brought to the truth.²⁶ This will cause them to rediscover themselves and escape from the snare of Satan who caught them in his trap so that they would carry out his purposes.* 2 Timothy 2:24-26 TPT

Adonai gives us the “gift of repentance” to bring us to the truth. When we embrace the truth, we will be able to escape the snare of satan who caught us in his trap.

Sicknesses and Diseases

The topic of sicknesses and diseases is a complete teaching on its own, but the concept is worth mentioning here.

Adonai is not the author of confusion, nor of sicknesses and diseases. Satan is the one who steals, kills, and destroys, but Yehôvâh Elohim gives life so we may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Paul teaches that there are many voices, and each has meaning.

There are, I suppose, many different languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 1 Corinthians 14:10 ISV

How sad that we listen to these voices, give them meaning and dwell on them so much that, over time, they manifest in our personalities and bodies. When these voices have meaning to us, we are ensnared by the devil. To Paul, these voices were foreign and meant nothing.

...but to me they mean nothing. A person talking to me in one of these languages will be a stranger to me and I will be a stranger to him. 1 Corinthians 14:11 TLB

Let me explain how these “voices” operate. A voice whispers to you that someone has said nasty things about you. Then, you dwell on the thought and distance yourself from that person. Soon, resentment and unforgiveness set in. This puts you in torment (Matthew 18:34). When you dwell on this voice over a period, the hypothalamus gland picks up the conflict between the soul and the spirit. The spirit originates from heaven and has no understanding of resentment and unforgiveness, in contrast with the soul

that operates out of the fleshly realm of the old Adam. This brings conflict between the soul and spirit. The hypothalamus gland is responsible for the regulation of hormones throughout the body. Long-term over- or under-secretion of these hormones, because of stressful conflict, is what brings about sicknesses and diseases. How ironic that some believe sicknesses and diseases are from God, but at the same time visit the doctor for healing!

You hypocrite!

How dare you interfere with God's will for your life by going to a doctor if you believe He is the author of sicknesses and diseases!

In his book, “*A More Excellent Way, Be in Health*”, Dr Henry W. Wright says that we sometimes pray to God for years to heal a sick person, while God's will for us is to be released from the snare of satan who caused the sickness in the first place. Diseases in our lives can sometimes be the result of a separation from Him and His Word in specific areas of our lives because of disobeying His will. That area is where satan keeps us in captivity. When a specific disease manifests in your physical body, it indicates the area of separation from Adonai in your life. We often need to be ***sanctified*** in these areas of our lives before being healed.

The beginning of healing from spiritually rooted diseases is making peace with Adonai, accepting His love and accepting yourself and others. Although we have made it unto salvation, few are willing to go through the process of ***sanctification***. Yashuah demonstrated this concept to His disciples when He washed their feet. He told them He didn't need to wash their whole body

as they had already made it unto salvation. He only needed to wash their feet, which was a symbolic act of **sanctification**.

In this healing ministry, the challenge is often to identify the area of separation and lead the person to the **truth**, e.g., the spiritual root of the sickness could be because of the unloving spirit. When you feel unloved, rejected and abandoned, there is a lack of nurturing in the bloodline. The **truth** is, Adonai promised He would never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6). Through God's gracious gift of repentance, the sick is brought to the **truth** and this will help them rediscover themselves and escape from the snare of Satan, who caught them in the trap of the unloving spirit.

I trust you understand that faith in the works of Adonai follows repentance. I daily experience how people's faith is stirred up and they receive their deliverance from the snare of the devil after they have repented. Healing flows because of repentance. If we do not set this stone of "**repentance**" into our foundation, the building will always be unstable. Paul warns us against listening to voices and he also gives us the weapon to deal with them.

*For although we live in the natural realm, we don't wage a military campaign employing human weapons, using manipulation to achieve our aims. Instead, our **spiritual weapons** are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses behind which people hide. ⁵ We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every **arrogant attitude** that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, **every thought** and insist that it bow in*

obedience to the Anointed One. ⁶ *Since we are armed with such dynamic weaponry, we stand ready to punish any trace of rebellion, as soon as you choose complete obedience.* 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 TPT

Through many voices, the devil establishes strongholds *that become part of our personalities*. The Living Bible Translation teaches not to use manmade weapons to knock down the **devil's strongholds**, but God's mighty weapons. These weapons, Paul says, can break down every proud argument against God and every wall blocking us from finding, knowing, and seeing the truth.

*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strongholds**;) ⁵ **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every **thought** into the obedience of Christ.* 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 KJV

Notice the link between strongholds and imaginations. The Passion Translation refers to them as thoughts. We must bring them into captivity under the obedience of Adonai.

Changing your mind

Most spiritual problems are because we have never truly repented and changed our minds. We have never made a sincere decision to surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Yashuah HaMashiach. We have never laid down our "will". What an example set for us in the Garden of Gethsemane when Yashuah prayed to the Father.

And going a little farther, He threw Himself upon the ground on His face and prayed saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will and desire.

Matthew 26:39 AMPC

Jesus could not bear to carry all the sins, iniquities, and transgressions of the world upon Himself. But He laid down His will and accepted the will of the Father. He set an example for us to lay down our will for Him.

Being Double-minded

Many believers are unstable in all their ways. They are schizophrenic and, in a spiritual sense, have split personalities. They try to please Adonai by going to church but for the rest of the week, they live a self-pleasing life. The Word of God calls this double-mindedness.

He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he undertakes. James 1:8 ISV

When we constantly doubt and walk in unbelief, we are like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. Such a person will not receive anything from Adonai.

But he must ask in faith, without any doubts, for the one who has doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For do not let that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord. James 1:6-7 ISV

It is not so much about a lack of faith, but rather about getting rid of unbelief!

Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! James 1:22 TPT

Disobeying the Word of God seems to be self-deception.

If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning.²⁴ You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin.²⁵ But those who set their gaze deeply into the perfecting law of liberty are fascinated by and respond to the truth they hear and are strengthened by it—they experience God's blessing in all that they do! James 1:23-25 TPT

For the believer, seeing the man “***in the mirror***” is perceiving how God has been seeing us, even from the beginning, before the fall of Adam, which resulted in sin's devastation to human hearts. The man in the mirror is the new creation man.

We all fall short of seeing the new creation man in the mirror because the devil constantly reminds us of the past, of the old man in the flesh. This is double-mindedness.

It wasn't that long ago that you lived in the religion, customs, and values of this world, obeying the dark ruler of the earthly realm who fills the atmosphere with his authority, and works diligently in the hearts of those who are disobedient to the truth of God.³ The corruption that was in us from birth was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life. We lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds dictated, living as rebellious children subject to God's wrath like everyone else.⁴ But God still loved us with such great love. He is so rich in compassion and mercy.⁵ Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, he united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace!⁶ He raised us up with Christ the exalted One, and we ascended with him into the glorious perfection and authority of

the heavenly realm, for we are now co-seated as one with Christ!

Ephesians 2:2-6 TPT

Grace and Mercy

Let us not boast by believing that anything comes from ourselves. Through His grace and mercy, God delivered us from the old sinful nature.

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died. Galatians 6:14 NLT

*"This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under **his supervision** until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself. ²² This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you! Ephesians 2:21-22 TPT*

Let us not grieve or quench the Holy Spirit by preventing Him from working in our lives (1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 7:51).

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. Galatians 5:17 NASB

It is the flesh and the will that are rebelling. The flesh must die. Laying down our will is the sign of a crucified flesh.

But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them. Isaiah 63:10 NASB

Living Stones

We are living stones, joined together as a building to be occupied by the Lord.

So keep coming to him who is the Living Stone—though he was rejected and discarded by men but chosen by God and is priceless in God’s sight. ⁵ Come and be his “living stones” who are continually being assembled into a sanctuary for God. For now you serve as holy priests, offering up spiritual sacrifices that he readily accepts through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it says in Scripture: Look! I lay a cornerstone in Zion, a chosen and priceless stone! And whoever believes in him will certainly not be disappointed. 1 Peter 2:4-6 TPT

Yehôvâh Elohim is the foundation of the Universe and of your temple. He is the precious Cornerstone of the building. What He requires of us is to REPENT. Through our repentance, the Blood of the Lamb flows, not only to cleanse and sanctify us, but to cancel all legal rights satan has in our bloodlines. Then, we are set free from the snare of the devil.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Acts 20:32 KJV

This message of repentance is so important that Christ commanded the churches in the Book of Revelation to repent (KJV).

*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. Revelation 2:5*

***Repent**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2:16*

*And I gave her space to **repent** of her fornication; and she repented not.*

Revelation 2:21

*Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds. Revelation 2:22*

*Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and **repent**. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Revelation 3:3*

FALSE REPENTANCE

We tend to believe that repentance is an experience of deep sorrow or regret. I have seen many believers constantly asking forgiveness with tears, only to continue doing the same wrong things. The Greek word used when Judas realised he had betrayed the Messiah (Matthew 27) is “**metamelomai**”. It means “**profound sorrow**”, engulfed in grief, swallowed in regret. This is not the same word for repentance, which is “**metanoia**”, meaning a “**change of the mind**”. The Hebrew word for repentance is “**teshuvah**”, which means “**to turn around**”.

Judas

*Then Judas, who had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, **repented** ^{G3338} and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the princes of the priests and the elders. Matthew 27:3 JUB*

G3338 (Strong's)

metamellomai

met-am-el'-lom-ahee

From G3326 and the middle of G3199; to care afterwards, that is, regret: -
repent (self).

Judas never renewed his mind or turned around. He never made a decision for Christ. He was merely filled with grief, sorrow, and regret. Judas had passed the point of no return. Rick Renner explains the deeper meaning in Greek. It is like an animal that has lost its way and cannot get back home. It cannot return to its owner. Likewise, many people feel sorry about their wrong deeds and repent of them, but never change their ways. They lose their way back to their First Love.

Repentance is not a matter of experiencing deep sorrow, as Judas did, but of making a sincere decision, led by the Holy Spirit, to turn around and renew the mind. Many merely make a momentary decision urged by emotions because they feel bad about their sins, but their lives never show the appropriate fruit. They never execute their decision to make a radical change in their lives. It is not a matter of feeling bad, but of a decision to consciously repent. Then, the Holy Spirit starts His work of sanctification. Salvation is a once-off event, but sanctification needs to take place daily.

Rick Renner's experience of repentance.

Rick Renner tells how he, as a five-year-old boy, went to the pulpit to repent of his sin and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour of his life. He saw older people approaching the pulpit with many emotions, shedding tears in their repentance. Soon, Rick noticed that those people did not attend church anymore and when he saw them several months later, there was no proof of any change in their lives.

When repentance sprouts from emotions, it may not lead to a renewed mind and a turning away from the old ways. The decision should sprout from the will.

We will see permanent conversions if people would repent as a definite act of their will!

The most critical moment in our lives is that instance Adonai urges us to repent. There may never be another chance!

Esau

Esau despised God. He never repented. His fleshly desires were more important to him than God's spiritual requirements.

(Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; for he did not find any place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.)

Hebrews 12:16-17 MKJV

These are hard words. With tears, Esau desired an opportunity to repent, but it was too late. This is what Romans 1 warns us about. Those who persist in their wrong ways will reach a point where Adonai will give them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts. Because they do not retain God in their knowledge, He will give them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (Romans 1:24, 28). A reprobate mind is the Greek word “**adokimos**”, meaning a degraded mind, perverse understanding, rejected, by implication worthless, castaway. God

reprobates the unrepentant sinner. In other words, they reach the same point as Esau and Judas, which is the point of no return and no change. Their minds become reprobate and contaminated. If we stubbornly persist in rejecting the truth, God will give us over to believing the lie.

Do not reject the precious opportunity to repent!

THE NATURE OF REPENTANCE

The well-known parable of the prodigal son in the Gospel of Luke sheds better light on the nature of repentance.

This son took the portion of his goods and left his father's house. He spent it all, resulting in having to feed pigs to survive. For a Jew to feed swine was as low as a person could get.

**Sometimes we must reach that lowest point in life
before being willing to turn around.**

When the prodigal son came to his senses and the "*moment of truth*" hit him, he realised he would be better off returning to his father's house. He was perishing in his current state of uncleanness among the pigs. The condition he was in could be compared to the state of those in captivity by the snare of the devil!

And when he came to himself (the moment of truth), he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have

sinned against heaven, and before thee, ¹⁹ And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰ And he arose, and came to his father. Luke 15:17-20a JUB

The prodigal son acknowledged that he had wasted all and decided to return to his father and turn his life around. This is the result of true repentance! The beauty of the story lies in the deep truth of who our Father is. He is represented by the father who saw his returning son and had compassion for him. He ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. Until then, he was most probably constantly on the lookout for the return of his lost son. Even before the son could express his guilt and unworthiness, the father brought out the best robe, put a ring on his finger, sandals on his feet and slaughtered the fattened calf to welcome him back. The ring on his finger and the sandals on his feet were a declaration that the father perceived him as his true son and not as a servant.

Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: ²³ And bring hither the fatted calf, 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. Luke 15:22-24 KJV

The result of true repentance is being welcomed by the Father!

Without true repentance, our Christian life would be an up-and-down experience. It is a decision of the will to lay down this first foundation stone. An unrepentant life is responsible for most of our problems. Without repentance, our buildings will collapse!

Therefore, Saints, repentance comes before faith.

Do you desire to meet the Messiah? Then follow the command of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Messiah's appearance by saying, *"Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matthew 3:2). Mark recorded, *"Repent ye and believe the Gospel"* (Mark 1:13-15). Repentance comes first. We cannot come to Adonai without repenting first. Yashuah also made it very clear after His resurrection.

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47 KJV

We often water down this serious message of repentance. By studying the Book of Acts, we see that no one claimed salvation without water baptism. Paul told the elders in Ephesians, both Jews and Greeks, that repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ are the key to our salvation (Acts 20:21). The point here is that Paul preached this message from house to house, and he preached the same message in public and the synagogues. The message never changed.

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house-to-house. Acts 20:20 KJV

Repentance is a doctrinal requirement.

RETURNING TO GOD

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 KJV

No one is righteous – not even one. Romans 3:10

Adonai requires repentance of us so we can turn around and be saved.

Come back, come back, O God, and restore us! Psalm 80:7a TPT

O God, the mighty Commander of Angel Armies, come back and rescue us!

Psalms 80:19a TPT

Lamentations recorded the mourning of Jeremiah over the destruction of Jerusalem and stated in chapter 5:21 that Israel desired to return to God.

Return us to You, O Jehovah, and we will turn; renew our days as of old.

(MKJV)

Bring us back to You, Adonai, and we will return. Renew our days as of old.

(TLV)

Derek Prince told how he had started a Bible Class with a few friends when they were in the army. One friend who attended these classes approached Derek and asked to be excused from future classes, as he was afraid that he might become converted. Many years later, Derek met with this person again, and he had turned into the most miserable person ever imagined because he had rejected the urge of the Spirit to repent and turn to God. He had reached the point of no return! When God speaks and we do not act and obey, we might find ourselves at the same point as Esau, Judas, and Derek Prince's friend. May we adhere to this foundational requirement of repentance before it is too late. Scripture is clear that when we reach that point of no return, we will perish.

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:3 KJV

2. FAITH TOWARD GOD

The second doctrinal requirement is “*faith toward Adonai*”. This is not just any faith. It is faith towards Yehôvâh Elohim. Without this faith, it is impossible to please Adonai.

And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who passionately seek him. Hebrews 11:6 TPT

The Greek word “**adynatos**” means “**impotent**” or “**powerless**”. We are powerless to please God. Only faith pleases God. Therefore, anyone who approaches God must believe.

THE NATURE OF FAITH

We often pray for more faith, but the Word of God clearly states we have received “***the measure of faith***”. This indicates the same amount for everyone (Romans 12:3 KJV).

Do you want your faith to grow? When we study and “eat” the Written Word of God, as explained in Part 1, faith increases.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

We need to hear and meditate on the Word of God. Only then can the Living Word of God manifest in our lives.

The Word of God is the only source of faith!

What then is faith?

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). The Greek word for “**substance**” is “***hupostasis***”, which means a setting or placing under, a thing put under, substructure, foundation, that which has foundation, is firm, that which has actual existence, the steadfastness of mind, courage, resolution, confidence, firm trust and assurance.

Biblical faith is in the heart.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10 KJV

If faith is in the heart and in the present, then hope is in the mind and in the future. Be careful not to have these the wrong way round, as diverted hope brings on Alzheimer’s disease. This is why the Word of God states that faith is the substance of things hoped for.

Many people hope for something to happen in the future but do not have faith that it will happen. Through my experience, I’d like to explain this as follows, realising that theologically it might not be one hundred per cent correct. If someone offered you a drink but did not have your favourite drink available, that person could offer you something else also preferable to you. Your favourite Five Roses tea may be substituted with Rooibos tea. Likewise, we substitute our hope with faith, so to speak. It is then our faith that brings the evidence of the things we cannot see. Although the breakthrough, healing, or restored relationship, may not yet be visible, by

walking in faith, we can already see it manifested. The only way to please God is through faith in Him. It is crucial to understand that when Adonai declares we are healed by His stripes (Isaiah 53:5), it means that healing has already been provided. Why are we still sick? Because the thief, satan, has stolen it from us!

When a person deals with the spiritual roots of a specific sickness and repents for being separated from Adonai in that area, that person can release faith and make a declaration, “***By His stripes I am healed.***”

Faith sees the unseen and brings evidence of things not seen! You cannot see healing yet but have evidence that it has already been provided. One day you will wake up with the manifestation of a healed body and soul, restored relationships and a restored life **because you released faith towards Adonai! You walked in faith and saw the future as if it already existed!** Hope is the helmet which protects the head and the mind, but faith is the breastplate that protects the heart.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 KJV

Faith can take us beyond the realm of the visible, “*for we walk by faith, not by sight.*” It is through faith that we understand the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear (2 Corinthians 5:7). We first confess our faith and then we have hope. Many are trapped by diverted hope because faith was not confessed. Hope comes after the release and declaration of our faith in Yehôvâh Elohim.

Our Faith will be Tested

The Christian life is one of trials, persecution, rejection and tests. Our faith can only grow and become stronger when it is tested.

My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! ³ For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up in you the power of endurance. ⁴ And then as your endurance grows even stronger, it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking. James 1:2-4 TPT

During these tests and trials, we learn to endure and grow stronger, so when the storm comes, the building will last and not be unstable. When we are being tested, we go through the same process as silver and gold when it is being purified by fire. Our faith goes through the fire of purification.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:7 KJV

Faith relates us to our High Priest

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus. Hebrews 3:1 KJV

Our High Priest is indeed in touch with all our feelings.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come

boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 KJV

What if my prayers seem to be unanswered?

Waiting long for a prayer to be answered can be very exhausting. Sometimes we reach a point where we want to give up. I know! While horse riding one day, I cried out to God in a loud voice, *“I cannot take it anymore, Lord! Please send Elijah’s chariots of fire to take me home!”*

The author of Hebrews encourages us.

Cast not away {apoballo - throw away; to discard; or to get rid of something no longer desired, needed, or wanted} *therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.* ³⁶ *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.* ³⁷ *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.* ³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.* ³⁹ *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.* Hebrews 10:35-39 KJV

We are warned to not cast away our confidence. The word “**cast away**” in Greek is “**apoballo**”. The same word is found in Mark 10. A blind man, Bartimaeus, was begging on the side of the road. He heard Jesus of Nazareth passing by and cried out in a loud voice, *“Son of David, have mercy on me!”* The disciples tried to silence him but he cried out even louder. *“Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!”* (Mark 10:46-48). Bartimaeus had been waiting for a very long time. Something was preventing him from receiving his sight.

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. ⁵⁰ *And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.* Mark 10:49-50 KJV

When Jesus commanded Bartimaeus to come to Him, he cast away his garment. He cast away (“**apoballo**”) what was preventing him from receiving his sight. Bartimaeus had to obey Jesus. He had to get up and go to Him. Let us, too, cast away the hindrances that are standing in our way of getting to Jesus!

And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?” Mark 10:51a KJV

If Jesus were to ask you today what you desired Him to do for you, what would your answer be?

Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted from Jesus. “*Lord, that I might receive my sight*” (Mark 10:51b). Jesus’s reply to Bartimaeus was, “*Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus in the way*” (Mark 10:52). Bartimaeus was bold in declaring his faith. He had a huge expectation that the Lord would indeed meet his need. He received his sight because his faith had made him whole! When your prayers seem to go unanswered, do not cast away your confidence, because there is indeed a great recompense of reward awaiting you! Let us not be among those who withdraw from Him and miss our reward! **Look out, for payday is coming!** There will be a reimbursement, a

settlement, for the believers for all their troubles. Don't forfeit it because of unbelief.

Hebrews 10 emphasises that we need patience. Don't be moved by unbelief, circumstances, or what you see. We do not walk by sight but by faith! Keep your position, stand, and hold your ground. Maintain your territory as military troops do when the commander orders them to maintain their position in the face of fierce combat. We must defiantly stick it out, regardless of the pressure mounted against it. This means to hold out, hold on, outlast, persevere, hang in there, never give up, refuse to surrender to obstacles and to turn down every opportunity to quit. It means refusing to break, surrender or bend under a heavy load because you are convinced that the territory, promise or principle under assault rightfully belongs to you. It means to show stamina and durability. It means to have a supernatural ability to continue fighting! Decide today to never give up! Stick to your faith! Don't surrender! Refuse to move! Stand and hold your ground! Hang on!

What are you declaring?

Whatever you have confidently spoken, you will receive. Hebrews 10:37 says to hang on for just a little while longer, for payday is coming. You are on the edge of receiving. Do not withdraw or move away.

*But we are not of them who draw back unto **perdition**; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews 10:39 KJV*

The word “**perdition**” is the Greek word “**apoleia**”, which means *something ruined, rotten, and decomposing*. It is a word used to describe the stench of a decaying animal or a dead human body, something in the process of perishing, loathsome.

If you back off from your faith, you go into reverse and lose territory. Your life experience will become negative. We are not of them who draw back unto perdition! We are among those who believe and receive the promise we declare with confidence! Those who withdraw because of unbelief create an unattractive and inaccurate image of Adonai.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22 KJV

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”*¹ John 5:14 KJV

FULL SALVATION

Faith brings full salvation. “**The Apocalypse of your Full Salvation**” is a full discussion on this topic. *(It is available on the Berashith Ministry website:*

www.berashithministry.co.za/index.php/products/personal-books)

Through faith, we receive full salvation. You may believe you have made it unto salvation because you confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart! But this is the salvation of your spirit and only the beginning of your faith.

*Through our faith, the mighty power of God constantly guards us until our **full salvation** is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ May the thought of this cause you to jump for joy, even though lately **you've had to put up with the grief of many trials**. ⁷ But these only reveal the sterling core of your faith, which is far more valuable than gold that perishes, for even gold is refined by fire. Your authentic faith will result in even more praise, glory, and honor when Jesus the Anointed One is revealed. ⁸ You love him passionately although you have not seen him, but through believing in him you are saturated with an ecstatic joy, indescribably sublime and immersed in glory. ⁹ For you are reaping the harvest of your faith—the full salvation promised you—your souls' victory! 1 Peter 1:5-9 TPT*

Between verses 5 and 9, we find trials and persecutions which refine our faith by fire. Only then can we experience the sanctification of the soul. After sanctification, we reap the harvest of our faith, which is full salvation - “*even the salvation of your souls*” (1 Peter 1:9 KJV).

A Personal Relationship

When we have a solid personal relationship with Yashuah, we have complete confidence to approach Him in prayer. Prayer does not merely mean talking to Adonai. It is a two-way conversation. Do not simply present a shopping list to God and end off your requests with a satisfying “Amen!” God can easily deal with your list, but He is interested in YOU.

We are often ignorant of Biblical principles. When ministers teach us Biblical principles, we are dull of hearing.

Solomon understood God's ways. He knew the Biblical principles of giving. He went up to the brazen altar before the Lord, which was at the Tabernacle of the congregation. He offered a thousand burnt offerings (2 Chronicles 1:6), although God required the sacrifice of only one bull. He gave more than required! That night, God appeared to him and said,

“ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE.”

God saw Solomon's heart and invited him to ask Him anything. Solomon asked for wisdom. The Lord honoured his request and gave him also all the riches and wealth and honour such as no other king has ever had before, nor shall ever have in the future (2 Chronicles 1:12).

(For more information on this topic, please download the book, “The Gift of Giving”)

God will always speak through the Bible. Anything that does not line up with the Bible is not from God.

Praying in the Name of Jesus

One day, a good friend and I discussed the following scripture verse.

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 14:13-14 KJV

Until then, both of us had been experiencing the opposite. Although we asked, we did not seem to receive. Today, I have a better understanding of this passage. Believers approach God with a shopping list. Although God wants to give us our heart's desires, He is far more interested in having a personal relationship with us. As I got to know God more intimately, I

reached the point where my soul cried out, "I am satisfied! My soul is indeed saturated by Yehôvâh Elohim! I do not want anything else. I am content!" Now I experience that when I ask anything in His name from this place of complete satisfaction, I receive!

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. ²⁴ Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24 KJV

We should come to Yashuah based on what Jesus did on our behalf. He paid the penalty for sin and took our iniquities on Him.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18 KJV

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13 KJV

The Blood of Christ restores us and cries out a better covenant than the blood of Abel.

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:24 KJV

The BLOOD OF CHRIST always speaks on our behalf!

We come to the Father based on who Jesus is. That is why the personal foundation in Part 1 is so fundamental to the restoration of the temple.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22 KJV

Christ Our Advocate

The earthly court system requires that we have an advocate in the high court. Likewise, we need an Advocate to present our case before the Father in the Heavenly Courts. Knowing that we are indeed guilty of a crime, we plead guilty. Our Advocate, Yashuah HaMashiach, stands in our place before the Father and the Righteous Judge accepts His Son's offering on the cross. He declares us free and "Not guilty!"

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate {someone called to help us} with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2:1 KJV

Based on our relationship with Him, He adopts us as His children. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ!

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:4-6 KJV

We are completely accepted by Christ, but many voices from the devil tell us that we are rejected. He focuses on our sins and broken past and accuses us day and night. We listen to these voices and live in captivity, ensnared by the devil. Instead, we should accept the precious prize of freedom which the Son of God gave us on Calvary when He cried out, “Tetelestai! It is done! It is finished!”

In Jesus, we can claim everything!

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely **give us all things**?* Romans 8:32 KJV

Many believers claim that Philippians 4:19 is a promise that God will provide, but we must understand the context. “*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*” was written to the Philippians, who were the only congregation that financially supported Paul’s ministry from the beginning.

For I want you to know that the Philippian church was the only church that supported me in the beginning as I went out to preach the gospel. You were the only church that sowed into me financially, ¹⁶ and when I was in Thessalonica, you supported me for well over a year. Philippians 4:15-16 TPT

We reap what we sow. The Philippians sowed a seed in Paul’s ministry, and he knew that his God would accordingly supply all their needs. The believer has to release faith to receive from Adonai.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV

FAITH AND WORKS

“Faith and works” can become very controversial. We should, however, not get involved in arguments and useless debates about works such as keeping laws and statutes. Unknowingly, we sometimes twist scriptures to support our opinions. It is not my aim to engage in such controversial debates but to help you lay down the foundation.

The following scripture is ***the ONLY foundational principle of the Christian faith***. Most often, we unconsciously add substances to it.

*And, brothers, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you have received, and in which you stand; by which you also are being kept safe, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that **Christ died for our sins**, according to the Scriptures, and that He was **buried**, and that He **rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-3 MKJV

This is the message the disciples preached everywhere. The Messiah died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day! The ultimate proof is in the Written Word of God and not necessarily in the opinions of the eyewitnesses.

*We were not retelling some masterfully crafted legend when we informed you of the power and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we saw his magnificence and splendor unveiled before our very eyes. ¹⁷ Yes, Father God lavished upon him radiant glory and honor when his distinct voice spoke out of the realm of majestic glory, endorsing him with these words: **This is my cherished Son, marked by my love. All my delight is found in him!** ¹⁸ And*

*we ourselves heard that voice resound from the heavens while we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And so we have been given the **prophetic word—the written message of the prophets, made more reliable and fully validated by the confirming voice of God on the Mount of Transfiguration**. And you will continue to do well if you stay focused on it. For this prophetic message is like a piercing light shining in a gloomy place until the dawning of a new day, when the Morning Star rises in your hearts.*

2 Peter 1:16-19 TPT

What a statement! Even though they were eyewitnesses of these events, they had a more reliable and validated confirmation of the Messiah – the Written Word of God by the prophets! I hope you can grasp this! The Written Word of God, coming from the prophets of the Old Testament, is more reliable than their reports as eyewitnesses.

The final authority is the Scriptures!

I am shocked over how quickly you have strayed away from the One who called you in the grace of Christ. I'm astounded that you now embrace a distorted gospel! ⁷ That is a fake "gospel" that is simply not true. There is only one gospel—the good news of Christ! Yet you have allowed those who mingle law with grace to confuse you. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel different than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! Galatians 1:6-8 TPT

Paul spent six chapters explaining this concept to the Galatians. (Please download the booklet, "Isaac & Ishmael: Born from Free- and Slave Woman", for free from our website for a complete discussion on this topic.)

Saints, when we accept these facts, righteousness will be imputed to us. Righteousness is not what we do but what we believe. Righteousness is to receive our “*right standing before our Father*”. We must cease all our efforts and works. We cannot earn anything from Adonai. No human can do anything to change how God feels about us. The Holy Spirit led me to this revelation in the epistle of James.

*You perceive **how God sees you** in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin. James 1:24 TPT*

We are easily prevented by satan from discovering this Biblical truth. In a footnote, the Passion Translation Bible explains the above verse as follows:

For the believer, seeing the man “in the mirror” is seeing how God sees us from the beginning, even before the fall of Adam which resulted in sin’s devastation to human hearts. The man in the mirror is the new creation man.

My dear Friend, when we have made it unto salvation through faith, we are a new creation. Why do you want to go back to the old fleshly desires or add customs and rituals to Yashuah’s finished works on the cross?

*When people work, they earn wages. It can’t be considered a free gift, because they earned it. ⁵ **But no one earns God’s righteousness.** It can only be transferred when we no longer rely on our own works, but believe in the one who powerfully declares the ungodly to be righteous in his eyes. **It is faith that transfers God’s righteousness into your account!** Romans 4:4-5 TPT*

Read again how Paul refers to Abraham, the father of faith.

Because Abraham believed God’s words, his faith transferred God’s righteousness into his account. Romans 4:3 TPT

We must stop our self-righteous works!! We cannot earn anything from our own works. By grace, we are saved through faith. It is a gift God gave us, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The reason salvation comes through Him alone is that pride sets in the moment we add works in the hope of earning God's favour, and we start boasting. Legalistic people are, by nature, not very loving people. A good example is the Pharisees. They did not act out of love but wished to impose the law of Moses onto every offender. Yashuah, on the other hand, only demonstrated love to everybody who approached him. There is, of course, an important place for works in our lives but works should follow faith.

We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it! Ephesians 2:10 TPT

Paul is clear that we must first become a new creation through faith and then good works will follow.

Fruit

Most believers find it difficult to understand that humanity cannot bear fruit. Andrew Murray once asked, *"Who is to be blamed when there is no fruit?"* The answer is, **"Christ alone"**. How can that be?

Benny Hinn wrote:

“It is not our strength that produces life, but His. Just before the crucifixion, Jesus had a meal with His disciples and gave them one of the greatest lessons found in the Gospels. He told them they were not the vine and they were not the fruit—they were the branches. We are an outlet for God’s power, not the power itself.”

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-5 NKJV

God’s purpose as the “vinedresser” is to keep the vine clean. The pruning of sin is not the result of our effort, but of His. All we are required to do is surrender. **Some Christians are struggling to bear fruit, but no branch has the power to make that happen. Jesus was saying, “You don’t bear the fruit. I do. But I give you the privilege of carrying it. The fruit is Mine. The vine is Mine. The branch is simply hooked onto Me. That’s all.”**

Someone once asked me, “If God is doing all the work, then what is my job?” “To hang on!”, I replied. The vine supplies life to the branches, and the branch has the privilege of carrying the fruit. In effect, our job is to become “fruit carriers”. **Take a close look at what is attached to the branch. It is the fruit of the Holy**

Spirit, not of the flesh! We become the channel through which love, joy, peace, and all the other spiritual fruit are given to the world (Galatians 5:22–23).

What is the result of this branch-vine relationship? When we understand this concept and make the Lord the source of our lives, He answers our prayers.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7 NKJV

“Without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). This is true before, during, and after salvation. The vine is strong and the branch is weak. But branches are what God uses to deliver His fruit to the world.

Hinn, Benny. The Blood Study Guide: Experience the Power to Transform You (pp. 165-167).

Charisma House. Kindle Edition.

BORN FROM FREE- AND SLAVE WOMAN

In Genesis 16-21, the story of Isaac and Ishmael introduces us to Abram and Sarai, whose names God changed to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17. The “**h**” added to their names points to the “**hey**” in the Jewish alphabet, representing Elohim’s breath – His Ruach! It was as though Elohim breathed over them and a new life began for each.

Abraham and his family moved to Canaan from Mesopotamia. Old and childless, Sarah gave her Egyptian maid, Hagar, to Abraham, hoping that the couple would have a child with the maid. Hagar became pregnant, but her continued presence in their home became intolerable to Sarah and she

constantly complained to Abraham. He told her to do with Hagar as she wished. Sarah then mistreated Hagar, who escaped into the wilderness. There she was met by an angel of the Lord who told her to return to her mistress and submit to her authority. He said the Lord would greatly multiply her descendants so they would be innumerable for their multitude. God confirmed she was with child and would bear a son whom she was to call Ishmael, because the Lord had given heed to her affliction. He said Ishmael would be a wild ass of a man - his hand against every man, and every man's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all of his kinsmen (Genesis 16:9-12).

In Genesis 17:7-27, God appeared to Abraham and instructed him to circumcise himself and all the males of his household. God further commanded that they should circumcise every newborn male on the eighth day of his life as a sign of the "eternal covenant" between God and the seed of Abraham. God then informed Abraham that, in one year, they would have a son, Isaac. Abraham was nearing his hundredth year, and Sarah was approaching the age of ninety. They had been married for 75 childless years because Sarah was physically incapable of having children. By then, Abraham already had a son, Ishmael, born thirteen years earlier from Sarah's maidservant Hagar.

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed, and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. Genesis 17:19 KJV

Abraham's reaction to this divine promise was, "*If only Ishmael would live before You!*" (Genesis 17:18). Abraham seemed to wish that Ishmael would be his heir to continue his life's work and perpetuate his special relationship with God. God rejected Abraham's proposal. He reassured him Ishmael would indeed become a great people, "***but my covenant I shall establish with Isaac***" (Genesis 17:21). Only Isaac, the son he would have with Sarah, could be his true heir, and could father the people with whom God would enter into a covenant as His "kingdom of priests and a holy nation".

Over ten years after God's promise, Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to Isaac. When he was weaned, Abraham feted his weaning with a great celebration. Genesis 21:9 tells that, during this feast, "*Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing [metzachek] with her son Isaac.*" "**Metzachek**" is defined as "mocking and scoffing".

Ishmael was making fun of Isaac. Being the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, Ishmael was a servant making fun of his master. Some Rabbinical explanations claim Ishmael spoke a language of idolatry, illicitness, or murder, but Abraham would not tolerate such acts in his house since it was punishable by death or lashing. Rather, Ishmael was challenging Isaac's right to the inheritance. Sarah was focused on the inheritance and insisted that he would not inherit with Isaac by demanding that Abraham send away both Ishmael and Hagar (Genesis 21:10), ensuring Ishmael's survival, because he would have been tenuous without his mother.

When God told Abraham to do as Sarah wished, he unhappily consented, provided them with bare provisions and the two were cast into the wilderness. When Hagar cried before God, a spring of water miraculously welled up in the desert and revived them. An angel appeared to confirm God's previous message that Ishmael would be the father of a great nation (Genesis 21:14-21). The next time we read of Ishmael is when he and Isaac buried their father. The Bible lists Ishmael's twelve sons who survived him after his death at 137 years of age. (Genesis 25:9-18). The number twelve represents a sign of nationhood.

Note that God's insistence on Isaac being the progenitor of His chosen people tells us something very fundamental about the nature of our relationship with Him, for Ishmael and Isaac differed in two significant respects.

- Ishmael came into the world by natural means, while Isaac's birth was a supernatural event.
- Ishmael was circumcised at thirteen, the age of *daat* (awareness), whereas Isaac entered into the covenant of circumcision as an eight-day-old infant—an age at which a baby is not even aware of his surroundings, much less of its significance.

Ishmael represents a rational relationship with God, based upon a person's nature and understanding. Isaac represents a supranatural, supra-rational bond.

Abraham discerned many positive qualities in Ishmael and was prepared, even desirous, to see him as his heir. Yet, God insisted that his covenant with Abraham be perpetuated specifically through Isaac and Isaac's descendants—a people whose commitment to God would transcend the natural and the rational.

Over 2 000 years later, Paul writes:

*For it is written: Abraham had **two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman.** ²³ But, indeed, he out of the **slave-woman has been born according to flesh**, and he out of the free woman through the promise; ²⁴ which things are being allegorized; for these are the **two covenants**, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar. ²⁵ For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ **But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all.** ²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, barren one not bearing; break forth and shout, you not travailing; for more are the children of the desolate than she having the husband." ²⁸ **But brothers, we, like Isaac, are children of promise.** ²⁹ But then even as he born according to flesh persecuted him born according to the Spirit, so it is also now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? **"Cast out the slave-woman and her son; for in no way shall the son of the slave-woman inherit with the son of the free woman."** ³¹ Then, brothers, we are not children of a slave-woman, but of the free woman. Galatians 4:22-31 MKJV*

What is Paul talking about?

Throughout his epistle to the Galatians, Paul repeats the fact that there are two covenants, namely, the Old and the New Covenants. These two

covenants are allegorised in the two sons of Abraham, namely, Isaac and Ishmael. The first son of Abraham with Hagar, Ishmael, represents the Old Covenant and the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai.

These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants. The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery—children born to Hagar. ²⁵ For “Hagar” represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The “Hagar” metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today which is currently in bondage. Galatians 4:24-25 TPT

We all came into the world through and by natural means (*we all have a father and a mother*) and are born under the curse of slavery. Elohim requires a born-again experience to make us free.

*So it is with us. When we were juveniles we were **enslaved under the hostile spirits of the world.** ⁴ But when that era came to an end and the time of fulfillment had come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman,** [Every child has a mother; but for Jesus to be “born of a woman” meant there was no human father, no male counterpart. Jesus’ true Father is the Father of Eternity. No other child has had a virgin birth, “born of a woman,” except him. All the rest of us are born from a father and a mother.] *born under the written law {Torah}.**

Galatians 4:3-4 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible translated verse 4 as, “*But when the fullness of the time came, Elohim sent forth His Son, having come into being out of a woman, being subject to the Torah.*”

While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby, ⁷ and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in

a feeding trough, because there was no place for them in the guest quarters.

Luke 2:6-7 ISV

After eight days had passed, the infant was circumcised and named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²³ as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn son is to be designated as holy to the Lord. Luke 2:21-23 ISV

Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set free all those held hostage to the written law so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. Galatians 4:5 TPT

The Hebraic Root Bible translated verse 5 as, *“That He might redeem the ones under (the penalty of breaking) the Torah, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*

Amazing that Sarah’s pregnancy was a foreshadowing of Christ, who was born supernaturally by the Spirit? As Sarah was barren and became pregnant with Isaac, so Mary became pregnant with Jesus Christ.

Paul explains that Isaac, the son of the free woman, Sarah, was born supernaturally by the Spirit. In contrast, Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm (Galatians 4:23). It seems to me most of us have the same Father, but we do not have the same mother. This contains a mystery. We need to be born from above – from the heavenly Jerusalem, which is our true mother. She is the Free Woman, birthing children into freedom. But there is also a mother who is birthing children into slavery –

children born to Hagar. She represents the law given at Mount Sinai and the earthly Jerusalem of today. Out of the slave-woman, children have been born according to the flesh, and they are currently in bondage! (Galatians 4:23-25).

Both Mary and Sarah were barren women, and both burst forth with gladness to give birth to free children.

For it is written:

'Burst forth with gladness,

O barren woman with no children!

Break through with the shouts of joy and jubilee,

for you are about to give birth!

The one who was once considered desolate and barren

now has more children than the one who has a husband!'

Galatians 4:27 TPT

This is a typology fulfilled by the birth of Christ Jesus.

*So it is with us. When we were juveniles (young, teenage, immature, inexperienced) we were **enslaved** under the hostile spirits of the world. ⁴ But when the time of fulfillment had come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.** ⁵ Yet all of this was so that he would redeem and set **free those held hostage to the law** so that we would receive our freedom and a full legal adoption as his children. Galatians 4:3-5 TPT*

The above passage is profound. We are now sons and daughters of adoption by whom we cry out, "Daddy – Abba Father!"

Heirs with Christ

*Consequently, brothers, we are not—with respect to human nature, that is—under an obligation to live according to human nature. ¹³ For if you live according to human nature, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you continually put to death the activities of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ **For all who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery that leads you into fear again. Instead, you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with the Messiah—if, in fact, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***

Romans 8:12-17 ISV

We are saved by grace through faith and not by doing anything. The nation of Israel is, however, still in bondage because they have not yet accepted the Messiah or their salvation. They are still under the bondage of the law and this bondage will only end when the Messiah returns and redeems Jerusalem (Zachariah 14). What a privilege to accept the Messiah, receive salvation and be born from above into freedom! This is indeed grace!

*Now we're no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God's very own sons and daughters! **And because we're his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs of God through Jesus, the Messiah!*** Galatians 4:7 TPT

When we are born from above, from the free woman, we not only become His sons and daughters, but we also become His heirs. Our heritage is through Jesus, the Messiah, and not by keeping the law! It is very important to understand what Paul is trying to tell us! We cannot add anything to the

Blood of the Lamb! Everything we are, everything we become, and everything we receive is in Him and through Him.

Before we knew God as our Father and we became his children, we were unwitting {not aware of the full facts} servants to the powers that be, which are nothing compared to God. ⁹But now that we truly know him and understand how deeply we're loved by him, why would we, even for a moment, consider turning back to those weak and feeble principles of religion, as though we were still subject to them? {Footnote in HRB: "These were people who were before patterning pagan cultic practices and now came to faith in YHWH and are now known by YHWH and were turning back to the former pagan practices."} Galatians 4:8-9 TPT

Paul instructed the people of Thessalonica.

*You know what **instructions** we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For it is God's will that you be sanctified: You must abstain from sexual immorality. ⁴ Each of you must know how to control his own body in a holy and honorable manner ⁵ not with passion and lust like the gentiles who do not know God. 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5 ISV*

*Why would we want to scrupulously observe rituals like special days, (Or "**Sabbaths**"), celebrations of the new moon, annual festivals, and sacred years? [There is no requirement for Gentiles to become like Jews and observe Jewish ordinances to draw closer to God. Our approach to God is always based on grace and faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.] Galatians 4:10 TPT {The Hebraic Root Bible refers to the false worship of verse 8.}*

I AM YOUR SABBATH REST – Yashuah HaMashiach

Paul was the apostle who preached the Good News to the Gentiles. His message announced their freedom in Christ Jesus. Throughout his epistles, he emphasised this and was adamant that they should not allow anyone to mislead them back into slavery.

I'm so alarmed about you that I'm beginning to wonder if my labor in ministry among you was a waste of time! Galatians 4:11 TPT

Paul's Personal Appeal

Beloved ones, I plead with you, follow my example and become free from the bondage of religion. I once became as one of you, [Or "imitated you". Paul is using sarcasm when he says, "I imitated you; now you should imitate me!"] a gentile, when I lived among you—now become free like me. When I first came to minister to you, you did me no wrong. I can't believe you would do wrong to me now! Galatians 4:12 TPT

AN OLD TESTAMENT ALLEGORY

In his epistle to the Galatians, Paul explains that Christ came to fulfil the law. Our freedom is now in Him, Christ Jesus, the Anointed One. Why would we want to go back again to live strictly by the law?

Tell me, do you want to go back to living strictly by the law?
Galatians 4:21 TPT

The HBR translated this verse as, *"I say to you, those that desire to let themselves be under (the penalty of) the Torah, do you not hear the Torah?"*

Haven't you ever listened to what the law really says? Have you forgotten that Abraham had two sons; one by the slave girl, and the other by the free

woman? {See Genesis 16:15; 21:2}. ²³ *Ishmael, the son of the slave girl, was a child of the natural realm. But Isaac, the son of the free woman, was born supernaturally by the Spirit—a child of the promise of God!* ²⁴ ***These two women and their sons express an allegory and become symbols of two covenants.*** *The first covenant was born on Mt. Sinai, birthing children into slavery—children born to Hagar {Genesis 21:10-14}. ²⁵ For “Hagar” represents the law given at Mt. Sinai in Arabia. The “Hagar” metaphor corresponds to the earthly Jerusalem of today which is currently in bondage. (This is because the nation has not accepted salvation yet. This bondage will end when Messiah returns and redeems Jerusalem, as written in Zechariah 14.) ²⁶ In contrast, there is a heavenly Jerusalem above us, {Revelation 21:1-2} which is our true “**mother**”. She is the free woman, birthing children into freedom!*

Galatians 4:21b-26 TPT

Paul is showing that the **law is a system of works that brings bondage** and that the promise is a system of grace that brings true freedom. He quotes Isaiah’s prophecy.

“Sing, you barren woman, even the one who never bore a child! Burst into song and shout for joy, even you who were never in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married,” says the LORD. Isaiah 54:1 ISV

Paul discusses this in 2 Corinthians 3. The Sinai covenant brought bondage because it had no avenue by which sins could be paid for and removed. Sin was only covered from year to year on Yom Kippur. It has nothing to do with the validity of the Torah, which is binding in both covenants (Hebrews 8:10).

MINISTERS OF THE NEW COVENANT

*Are we beginning to recommend ourselves again? Unlike some people, we do not need letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we. ² You are our letter, written in our hearts and known and read by everyone. ³ You are demonstrating that you are the Messiah's letter, produced by our service, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴ Such is the confidence that we have in God through the Messiah. ⁵ By ourselves we are not qualified to claim that anything comes from us. Rather, our credentials come from God, ⁶ **who has also qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant**, which is not written but spiritual, because the written text brings death, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now if the ministry of death that was inscribed in letters of stone came with such glory that the people of Israel could not gaze on Moses' face (because the glory was fading away from it), ⁸ will not the Spirit's ministry have even more glory? ⁹ **For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, then the ministry of justification has an overwhelming glory.** ¹⁰ In fact, that which once had glory lost its glory, because the other glory surpassed it. ¹¹ For if that which fades away came through glory, how much more does that which is permanent have glory? ¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we speak very boldly, ¹³ not like Moses, who kept covering his face with a veil to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴ **However, their minds were hardened, for to this day the same veil is still there when they read the old covenant. Only in union with the Messiah is that veil removed.** ¹⁵ Yet even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ **Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom.** ¹⁸ As all of us reflect the glory of the Lord with unveiled*

faces, we are becoming more like him with ever-increasing glory by the Lord's Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:1-18 ISV

These words of Paul are deep. The true meaning can only be revealed through the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for “**mystery**”, “**mystērion**”, is found twenty-eight times in the New Testament. It means a sacred secret, something that God has hidden from ancient times and can only be revealed by God. These mysteries are meant for us to perceive as part of our Kingdom birthright (The Passion Bible, P442, quoting Romans 11:25).

It is indeed a mystery! Only when we are in union with Christ, the Messiah, can it be revealed to us that we are now living under a new covenant. Because He is a spirit, we now find our freedom in Him, because we are also spiritual beings after our born-again experience. We have been transformed from human beings to spiritual beings.

Dear friends, just like Isaac, we're now the true children who inherit the kingdom promises. ²⁹ And just as the son of the natural world at that time harassed the son born of the power of the Holy Spirit, so it is today. ³⁰ And what does the Scripture tell us to do? Galatians 4:28-30 TPT

Expel the slave mother with her son! Genesis 21:10

This is proof that the two “sons” are not meant to live together. You cannot mingle **law and grace**, for only grace is based upon the promise of new life. (Galatians 1:7 TPT)

The son of the slave woman will not be a true heir, for the true heir of the promises is the son of the free woman (See Genesis 21:10-12; John 8:35).

But what says the Scripture? 'Cast out the slave woman and her son, for in no way shall the son of the slave woman inherit with the son of the free woman.'

Galatians 4:30 HRB

God Protected Hagar and Ishmael

The child grew and eventually was weaned, so Abraham threw a tremendous banquet on the very day Isaac was weaned. ⁹ Nevertheless, when Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian—whom Hagar had borne to Abraham—making fun of Isaac, ¹⁰ she told Abraham, "Throw out this slave girl, along with her son, because this slave's son will never be a co-heir with my son Isaac!"

Genesis 21:8-10 ISV

According to Genesis 21:9, Ishmael made fun of Isaac in such a way that Sarah asked Abraham to expel Hagar, the slave girl. We can only conclude that Ishmael was not simply teasing Isaac innocently. In the biblical sense, this means that Ishmael was persecuting Isaac. God counted this persecution as the beginning of the four-hundred-year persecution of His people.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. Genesis 15:13 KJV

And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years. Acts 7:6 KJV

Ishmael's mocking of Isaac was a serious issue because Isaac was God's ordained seed and Ishmael was the counterfeit. The counterfeit always hates the ordained. We, the ordained seed, are hated by the counterfeit.

But as then he that was born according to flesh persecuted him that was born according to Spirit, so also it is now. Galatians 4:29 ASV

When Isaac grew older, Ishmael was stirred up to persecute him. It is relevant in our lives in how we still boast about our natural goodness, saying, "Because I am doing A or B, I am worthy", or "I am not as proud as some brothers and sisters are. I thank God that I was born humble." The sisters may criticise others, saying, "I would never gossip the way Sister So-and-So does. I was not born that way." Even some elders and so-called ministers of the Word cannot keep from boasting about their natural attributes. Perhaps they say to themselves, "Brother X is so quick to lose his temper. But I thank God that my natural birth is much better than his." Maybe you do not utter such words, but it is still hidden deep within all of us to a certain extent.

When the Christ who has been "born in our Christian lives" begins to "grow up", our natural goodness will mock Him. Then, the grace within us should say, "**Cast out the law!** Cast out the bondwoman and what she has produced within me by fleshly efforts!" **Are you willing to do that?**

Sometimes we do it outwardly, but secretly still hold onto Hagar and Ishmael - the law and our natural attributes and goodness. Few Christians have the boldness to say, "**Cast out this bondwoman and her son!** Cast out the law, the efforts of the flesh, and all the success of my own efforts!" Rather,

we cling to our successes and hold onto our natural goodness. **But eventually, God will force us to abandon the law, our self-effort, and all we have produced out of the flesh.** We will then begin to rise and say, “From now on, there will be no more Hagar and Ishmael! They must go!” Like Abraham, we will send them away with only bread and water (v. 14).

Eventually, we all must make this decision. We must rise one morning, give the law a skin of water, and say, “Law, go your way, and take with you the one you helped me produce. Don’t leave him with me, because I don’t want him anymore. I loved Ishmael in the past, but now I give him up.” The law and the result of the effort of the flesh must be fully abandoned! We need to comprehend the spiritual significance of casting out Hagar and Ishmael!

Acknowledgement: Living Stream Ministry. Publisher of Watchman Nee & Witness Lee.

<https://www.ministrysamples.org/excerpts/ISHMAELS-MOCKING-OF-ISAAC.HTML>

It’s now so obvious! We’re not the children of the slave woman; we’re the supernatural sons of the free woman—sons of grace!
Galatians 4:31 TPT

THE NATURE OF GRACE

The root meaning of grace is “*comeliness, beauty imparted to us because we believe in Him*”. He makes us beautiful by His grace. What a discovery we find in the Song of Songs, written by Solomon.

The Shulamite

*I feel as dark and dry as the desert tents
of the wandering nomads.*

The Shepherd-King

*Yet you are so lovely—
like the fine linen tapestry hanging in the Holy Place.*

¹¹ We will enhance your beauty.

Songs 1:5, 11 TPT

The Lord is looking at us as a new creation when He declares, “*Every part of you is so beautiful, my darling. Perfect is your beauty, without flaw within*” (Songs 4:7 TPT).

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Romans 11:6 KJV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 NIV

Adonai has done this to protect us against the biggest sin, namely pride. We cannot and should not boast about anything. WE DID NOT EARN A THING!

The Law

What is the purpose of the Law?

The law brings knowledge of sin and reveals our transgressions. It shows us who we are. But it also shows us Adonai’s holy and perfect character. It brings us to the end of ourselves and to that place where we will cry out, “*We need a Saviour!*”

No man on earth can obey and achieve the rules of the law. It is impossible! According to orthodox rabbis, there are over 625 Jewish laws. Those believers who try to obey the law to the letter are also the ones who water it

down to mere dietary or festival laws. It is not a set of rules and can't be achieved through rules.

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10 NIV

No flesh shall be justified in his sight, for by law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20 JUB

The purpose of the law is clearly to expose our weaknesses which Adonai diagnoses. The Law exposes the problem, but the Law can never solve it. We need the law to bring us to the realisation that we urgently need grace. We are either under the law or under grace. We are born from a free woman or a slave woman.

Many believers have the same Father, but not all have the same mother. Are you still under the bondage of the slave woman, Hagar? Or are you born from above, from the free woman, Sarah, a typology of the New Jerusalem?

No man can keep the law. The sooner we acknowledge this, the sooner His full grace can be imputed onto us. Law and grace are mutually exclusive. It can only be one or the other! The only way to come out of the dominion of sin is to be under grace.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:14 KJV

When we are still under the law, sin has dominion over us. When we are led by the Spirit, we are sons of Adonai!

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14 KJV

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Galatians 5:18 KJV

Many believers twist scriptures to justify the law. Scriptures indeed teach us to obey God's commandments, but keeping the law with the expectation of earning something or being in right standing with God as a result is not scriptural at all. Legalism only brings more division in the Body of Christ. Every denomination has its own set of rules. Believers then judge the righteousness of others by their own standards and rules. They focus on obedience to a set of rules instead of on faith.

Sometimes, as Gentiles, we read the Scriptures without knowledge of the true original meaning because of our lack of Jewish traditions and customs. According to Jewish law, no divorced person was allowed to remarry unless the spouse had died. Remarrying while the previous spouse was still alive was adultery according to Jewish law. Likewise, Paul now explains in Romans 7 that we were also once married to the law. But now, after conversion, we become dead to the law and are free to marry **our new Husband, Yashuah HaMashiach. We are now born from a free woman! Previously, we were married to the law and were born from the slave women.**

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. Romans 7:4 KJV

At last, we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past, as explained in Galatians 5:1 TPT. Our past was lived in the flesh. The old Adam nature, with its passion for sins, was stirred up by the law. The strength of sin is in the law.

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

1 Corinthians 15:56 KJV

The problem is not with the law but with trusting in our ability to fulfil it. We simply cannot do it! Instead of trusting in ourselves, we need to fully trust and rely on Yashuah HaMashiach. When we live a self-righteous life, we automatically shut God's grace out. Interesting that only the human race and fallen angels have a desire to be independent of God. Everything else in creation fully depends on Him.

We need Him in our everyday walk. We create a lot of problems for ourselves because we refuse to fully depend on Adonai.

We trick ourselves into self-reliance and self-dependence! Remember, there is nothing wrong with the law! The problem is our desire to be independent! The old rebellious nature of Adam constantly prevents us from entering into freedom. When Christ appeared on earth, He presented Himself as if to say, *"Look! Here I am! I am the reality of the shadows that pointed to Me! I fulfilled the law on your behalf!"*

For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believeth.

Romans 10:4 ASV

They simply could not grasp it and openly declared:

We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? John 8:33 KJV

Yashuah replied:

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
John 8:36 KJV

Legalism, Saints, will always keep us from freedom. When we come to Christ, it is the end of the law. This is the only way we can achieve right standing before the Father. Legalism appears to be something “good”, but Paul regarded it as a problem more serious than adultery and drunkenness.

I am shocked over how quickly you have strayed away from the One who called you in the grace of Christ. I'm astounded that you now embrace a distorted gospel! ⁷ That is a fake “gospel” that is simply not true. There is only one gospel—the good news of Christ! Yet you have allowed those who mingle law with grace to confuse you. Galatians 1:6-7 TPT

*What has happened to you foolish Galatians? Who has put you under an evil spell? Did God not open your eyes to see the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion? Was he not revealed to you as the crucified one? ² So answer me this: Did the Holy Spirit come to you as a reward for keeping Jewish laws? No, you received him as a gift because you believed in the Messiah. ³ **Your new life began when the Holy Spirit gave you a new birth. Why then would you so foolishly turn from living in the Spirit by trying to finish by your own works?** ⁴ Have you endured so many trials and persecutions for nothing? ⁵ Let me ask you again: What does the lavish supply of the Holy Spirit in your life and the miracles of God's tremendous power have to do with you keeping religious laws? The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us through the revelation*

and power of faith! ⁶ Abraham, our father of faith, believed God, and the substance of his faith released God's righteousness to him. ⁷ So the true children of Abraham have the same faith as their father! ⁸ And the Scripture prophesied that on the basis of faith God would declare gentiles to be righteous. God announced the good news ahead of time to Abraham: 'Through your example of faith, all the nations will be blessed!'
Galatians 3:1-8 TPT

Paul remarked that the Holy Spirit started their journey off based on righteousness, but they still tried to justify themselves by returning to the law. Being under the law is being under the curse.

But if you rely on works of keeping the law for salvation, you live under the law's curse. For it is clearly written: 'Utterly cursed is everyone who fails to practice every detail and requirement that is written in this law!'
Galatians 3:10-11 TPT

Yet, Christ paid the full price to set us free from the curse of the law. He absorbed the curse completely as He became a curse in our place. For it is written: 'Everyone who is hung upon a tree is cursed.' Galatians 3:13 TPT

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Jeremiah 17:5 KJV

Cursed is the man who trusts in man. The flesh strengthens the heart and then man departs from the Lord. Many begin the Christian life in the Spirit but do not continue in the grace of Adonai. They try to do for themselves what only God can do and thus bring themselves under the curse.

A Confession to be made!

I meditated on these scriptures for many years. It was only after I had listened to Derek Prince explaining this principle that I realised I was under the very same curse. That night, my wife and I had communion and repented of our self-centred, self-reliant life.

While Derek was ministering in Jerusalem with another pastor who explained this concept to someone, his wife realised they were under this curse. At that stage, they had been trying to sell their house for fourteen months without success. Realising that evening that they were trusting in the real estate agent to sell the house and not in God, they confessed. When they arrived at home, an agent stood waiting at the door with a client to buy the property! How easily we are destroyed by our self-reliant efforts! This is how the devil keeps us in his snare.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4 KJV

There is no love in legalism, as indicated by the loveless, merciless acts of the Pharisees. Let us labour to show love for one another, for LOVE is the fulfilment of the whole law!

Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Romans 8:8 KJV

A certain lawyer came to Jesus with a question. Interesting that he was identified as a lawyer, as he intended to tempt Yashuah.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:36-40 KJV

Are you keeping the greatest and most important commandment? Let us not owe anyone anything but to love one another!

When you're joined to the Anointed One, circumcision and religious obligations can benefit you nothing. All that matters now is living in the faith that works and expresses itself through love. Galatians 5:6 TPT

For we reach the goal of fulfilling all the commandments when we love others deeply with a pure heart, a clean conscience, and sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 TPT

There is only one proof that we are indeed His disciples and that is demonstrating our love for one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35 KJV

Let this be a warning to all in ministry. When ministers of the Word produce disciples with knowledge but without love, all our efforts are wasted. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies and builds up!

Now about food offered to idols: of course we know that all of us possess knowledge [concerning these matters. Yet mere] knowledge causes people to be

puffed up (to bear themselves loftily and be proud), but love (affection and goodwill and benevolence) edifies and builds up and encourages one to grow [to his full stature]. 1 Corinthians 8:1 AMPC

We can easily motivate our children with fear, but it will only be love that keeps them close to us when they are grown. Likewise, Adonai knows the only way to motivate his Body is through love.

In conclusion, James explains that faith without works is dead. Likewise, faith and works without love will also be dead!

*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, **but a doer of the work**, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James 1:25 KJV*

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

When we hear the Word of God but do not act upon it, our faith is dead.

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. Luke 6:47-48 KJV

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is

dead.¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?²² **Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?**²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:1-26 TPT

3. DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

Most believers are spiritually immature and in need of milk instead of strong meat (Hebrews 5:11-14). Paul reminds us of six important aspects of growing to spiritual maturity.

- Repentance from dead works.
- Faith toward God.
- Baptisms.
- Laying on of hands.
- Resurrection of the dead.
- Eternal judgment.

Paul gives us a protocol to follow. We often miss most of these steps in our walk with Christ. That is why our temples are collapsing.

After **repentance** comes **faith toward God**, both of which we have already discussed. Then follow baptisms. The Greek word is “**baptizo**”. *It means being immersed “in” and “into”*. It also involves “**someone**”. Through baptism, our old nature, born from a corruptible seed which is the old man in the flesh or our Adam nature, must be executed on the stake. This is the only way to deal with our rebellious spirit. We deserve to be put to death!

But because of the love of our heavenly Father, who loved the world so much that he gave His only begotten Son, Yashuah HaMashiach, so “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16 KJV).

The Father put his Son on the stake on our behalf so we can have everlasting life.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. Galatians 5:24 NLT

We must follow Adonai’s protocol. First, we must repent, make a commitment to Yashuah, and confess we need a Saviour. Then, we release faith toward God. Execution on the stake follows when we put our old fleshly nature on the cross. Next, Paul addresses the doctrine of baptisms. Notice the plural form - **baptisms**! Believers often do not understand this doctrinal requirement of Christ. I also rebelled against it when I did not understand the full concept of being immersed. After many years of Bible study under the leadership of the Holy Ghost, I now have the boldness to release the truth

which is found only in the Bible and not in any denominational doctrine. We cannot believe in Yashuah and simultaneously disbelieve what the Word (Jesus) teaches us.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1 KJV

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. John 1:14 KJV

John's vision on the Isle of Patmos

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: **and his name is called The Word of God.** Revelation 19:11-13 KJV*

It cannot be denied that the Written Word is Yashuah. He became the Living Word in a human body. He has risen and ascended into the heavens from where He will return on a white horse with eyes flaming like fire. On His head will be many crowns and His written name will be “**The Word of God**”. The Word of God is the highest authority!

***If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken.** John 10:35 KJV*

SOMEONE, IN AND UNTO

An understanding of the meaning of the Greek word “**baptizo**” will give us a better understanding of what Christ requires from us. Baptism is a transition from one side (*the dark side, the old nature*) to another side (*the light, the new creation man*). It is not a partial transition but a full transition.

The word “**baptizo**” implies immersion by going down into the water or by pouring water over the whole body. The requirement is total immersion and not partial immersion. This automatically disqualifies the sprinkling of a few drops of water on the forehead.

“**Baptizo**” speaks of three elements, namely **SOMEONE**, **IN** and **UNTO**.

Understanding these fundamental issues will bring revelation knowledge of different baptisms.

“**Someone**” will always be involved in your baptism, e.g., a believer, the Holy Spirit, or Yashuah.

“**In**” refers to the element in which you are being immersed, e.g., water or the Holy Spirit.

“**Unto**” describes the element you are baptised unto as the result of your baptism, e.g., salvation.

Thus, there must be **someone** to perform the baptism, and there has to be a result - **something** unto which the person is baptised. Thus, you are baptised **by someone unto something**.

John the Baptist baptised believers **IN** water **UNTO** repentance for the forgiveness of sin. He baptised people in water, but He who would come after him would baptise them in the Holy Ghost.

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. Matthew 3:11 NIV

This is a baptism **IN** the Holy Spirit and **UNTO** power. This power refers to resurrection power, which is Dunamis Power. The same power that God the Father used to raise His Son from the dead is also in me and you (Romans 11:8).

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV

ONE BAPTISM

Although the Bible teaches seven different baptisms, Paul mentions “one body, one spirit and **one baptism**”.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6 KJV

Scriptures can never contradict each other, so what is Paul referring to? He does not mean to say there is only one baptism. Instead, it means there is only **one** of the different baptisms which **every** believer must obey and take part in. There is only **ONE BAPTISM** essential for SALVATION! Does that

mean all the other baptisms are not essential? They are not essential for salvation but essential for other things. These seven baptisms are all a package deal and essential for a believer to walk in total freedom. Let us examine this package deal.

DIFFERENT BAPTISMS

Baptism of Moses

*For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 ESV*

Here is a typology of what is to come - a foreshadowing of the New Testament baptism. Israel passed through the Red Sea and found themselves surrounded by walls of water. This was their water baptism.

Moses described how, as they walked on dry ground, a cloud directed them. This cloud was the Spirit of the Lord leading them on. This was their baptism in the Holy Spirit (Exodus 14:21-31). Thus, God delivered (saved) the children of Israel from bondage to the Egyptians and led them out of Egypt. This event is called the "Exodus". Accordingly, this is what Paul is referring to in Corinthians. This baptism is symbolic and serves as a type of the One to come, Yashuah HaMashiach. It prophesied that one day we would all be baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit.

Notice that Paul says the Israelites were baptised in water INTO Moses. That speaks of a baptism into the leadership of Moses. Today, we are not baptised into Moses or any other leadership or ministry but into the leadership of Christ Jesus.

Baptism of Suffering

Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ *And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized.”* Mark 10:38-39 ESV

This baptism is not in water but refers to the suffering and shame associated with the death of Christ, also called the “*baptism of the cross*”. The cup Jesus had to drink was a cup of shame and torment through scourging and suffering on the cross (Matthew 26:36-46). Jesus was overwhelmed and immersed in pain and dishonour. James and John once asked for glory and honour but would instead receive the same treatment as Jesus because they followed Him. Similarly, our calling is to suffer for the sake of Christ.

In fact, you were called to live this way, because Christ also suffered in your place, leaving you his example for you to follow. 1 Peter 2:21 TPT

Baptism of John

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ *And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.* ⁶ *Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and*

*wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ **I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**’*

Mark 1:4-8 ESV

John was to prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight (Mark 1:3). His baptism was in water (*Jordan River*) and was for repentance and forgiveness of sins. The Pharisees and lawyers rejected John’s baptism and, by doing so, rejected the purpose of God (Luke 7:29-30). Many still participate in this baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin.

The Apostle Paul passed through the upper coasts and came to Ephesus. He found certain disciples there and asked if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed? But, they had never heard of the Holy Spirit!

And he said unto them, Into what then were ye baptized? And they said, Into John's baptism. ⁴ Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, on Christ, Jesus. ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:3-5 JUB

The fact that Paul baptised these disciples into the Name of Jesus confirms that John’s baptism cannot be the “one baptism” Paul refers to. We will later see what this mandatory “one baptism” for the New Testament believer is.

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴ *John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"* ¹⁵ *But Jesus answered him, "**Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**"* Then he consented. ¹⁶ *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;* ¹⁷ *and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'*

Matthew 3:13-17 ESV

This account tells of Christ's own baptism, administered by John the Baptist in the water of the Jordan River. Christ knew no sin, with no need of repentance or forgiveness (2 Corinthians 5:21). However, He still underwent a baptism to "**fulfill all righteousness**". Unlike the Pharisees who rejected the purpose of God, Christ, by way of example, shows us the will of the Father by obedience to be baptised. The Father confirms His love for His Son and immediately bestows the Spirit upon Him. This event released Jesus to start His ministry. Note that the reason for Christ's baptism was to **fulfil all righteousness!**

This act of obedience gave all believers right standing before the Father. A detailed discussion on this will follow.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 NIV

Baptism of Fire

*I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and **fire**.¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:11-12 ESV*

In this context, three different baptisms are in view.

- First, the baptism of John.
- Second, the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Finally, the baptism of fire.

Christ will one day gather His wheat securely into His barn, but the chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12). Seemingly, this speaks of the future administration of judgment on those who disobey the Gospel. In the context of sanctification, this verse may be applied to our own lives. All filthiness in us should be burnt to cleanse us, purify us and make us whole and holy again so we will be blameless and spotless before our Bridegroom.

Similarly, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9 reveals that Christ will return in “**flaming fire**”, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. Therefore, this baptism is not of water. It is eternal “**fire**” to all those who reject the Lord and do not obey the Gospel.

There is also evidence that fire is a wall of protection that surrounds us.

'And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the LORD, 'and I will be its glory within.' Zechariah 2:5 NIV

Also, our Bridegroom will bring fire upon those who seek to destroy us.

Let the heads of those who surround me be covered with the trouble their lips have caused. ¹⁰ Let burning coals fall upon them; may they be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, never to rise. Psalm 140:9-10 NIV

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

*I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.* Matthew 3:11-12 ESV

This baptism is not baptism in the Name of Jesus but baptism which will be performed directly by the hand of Christ. One of these is the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon men. Though the Holy Spirit will always remain a mystery in many ways, the Scriptures have revealed several things about Him that will help us understand when and why these baptisms took place.

The pouring out of the Holy Spirit on “*all flesh*” was prophesied in Joel 2. This happened on Pentecost when the apostles gathered in Jerusalem while waiting for Christ’s promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8). With a mighty rushing sound, the Holy Spirit filled the apostles (baptised them). They began speaking in different tongues (known languages, see verses 8-11).

This fulfilled John's prophecy that Christ would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Additionally, it partially fulfilled the pouring out of the Spirit on "all flesh" in verse 17. In chapter 10, we see the fulfilment of the rest of the prophecy. A more complete discussion will follow.

Baptism in the Name of Jesus

*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"³⁸ 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 2:36-38 ESV*

The Jews realised they had killed the Son of God. Cut to their hearts, they asked Peter what they could do. He instructed them that each should repent and be baptised, not in the name of John but in the Name of Jesus, who was both Lord and Christ! This baptism was not merely ceremonial but for "**the forgiveness of your sins**". The Scriptures are clear that baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ is for the forgiveness of sins. Without this baptism, there is no forgiveness.

For the believer, this is crucial. We want to participate in the victory of the resurrected life of Christ, but few are willing to share in His suffering. We need to grasp this Biblical truth that we, too, need to die first before we can be resurrected. If you have never gone down into the water, the question remains, "When were you then executed and sentenced to death?" Our burial with Christ occurs during baptism when the old self dies (Romans 6:1-

6). Baptism is our execution on the stake. Our sins are nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:11-15), and Christ washes them away by His Blood (Acts 22:16).

Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ places us into the Body of Christ. *“For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”* and were made *“sons of God, through faith”* (Galatians 3:26, 27 KJV).

Acts 2:42-47 declares that those who were baptised were those whom the Lord added to the number of saved believers.

Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ also happened in water. In Acts 10, Peter asks, *“Who can refuse the water?”* This baptism occurred directly after repentance. We read the story of Philip and the eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. After Philip had preached to him, the eunuch remarked, *“See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”* They both went down into the water, and Philip baptised him.

Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ saves us. After commanding all to repent and be baptised in the Name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, Peter tells them to *“save themselves!”* Consequently, baptism occurred for those who received His words (Acts 2:40-41). Peter writes in 1 Peter 3:21 that *“baptism now saves you”*. Christ says:

He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned. Mark 16:16 MKJV

After Yashuah's ascension into heaven, we see in the Book of Acts that the Baptism of John (into repentance) was no longer valid and not essential for salvation.

Directly after the outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon 120 men in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, Peter explained the crucifixion, burial, and ascension of Jesus to 3 000 men. They were cut to the heart and asked Peter what they should do (Acts 2:37 TLV).

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. Acts 2:38 KJV

Peter did not mention the Baptism of John but the baptism IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST for the remission of sins. The Baptism of John is baptism unto repentance, but now we need baptism unto the remission of sins in the Name of Jesus. We also find confirmation in Acts. 18. A Jew named Apollos was accurately teaching the things regarding Jesus, yet he knew only the Baptism of John. Consequently, Paul needed to correct those whom Apollos had taught in Ephesus. In this instance, Priscilla and Aquila explained the way of God to Apollos more accurately (Acts 18:24-26). **Those under the baptism of John still needed a baptism in the Name of Jesus** (Acts 19:1-7). Therefore, John's baptism is not the "one baptism" Paul refers to. The **ONE baptism** that all believers must obey and teach is the Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ. This baptism occurs in water and results in the forgiveness of sins. This brings salvation by the Blood of Christ as we participate in His death, burial, and resurrection.

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

We must realise that the Old Testament believers could not be born again. To understand this, let's explore what went wrong with mankind.

When God created Adam and Eve, He dwelt with them in the Garden of Eden. His original plan was for man to share in His authority and to rule on earth, not to serve Him as a servant (Genesis 1:26-28).

THE FIRST THING GOD GAVE MAN WAS HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS.

God said, Let Us [Father, Son and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. Genesis 1:26 AMPC (Psalm 104:30; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3)

THE SECOND THING GOD DID WAS TO POSITION MAN IN HIS “*PRESENCE*”, WHICH IS THE HEBREW MEANING OF THE WORD “*EDEN*”.

- God's greatest desire was for man to be like Him, act like Him, and dwell with Him.
- **Image** = Resemblance (Strong's H6754) or exact **likeness** (Webster's "image").

Therefore, to be made in God's image means man resembles God and is an exact likeness of Him.

- **Eden** = A place of **God's presence** (Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 28:13).
- God gave man His nature and then put Him in His presence.
- God desires a relationship with us.

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

God created man to have dominion over all the earth. He created man in an image different from any other creature and to possess His spiritual and moral nature.

*What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him? ⁵ Yet You have made him but a little lower than God [or heavenly beings], and You have **crowned him with glory and honor.** ⁶ You made him have **dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.** Psalm 8:4-6 AMPC (1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 2:6-8.)*

GOD GAVE MAN INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERN HIS LIFE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN. THESE INCLUDED RULES ON WHAT THEY WERE ALLOWED TO EAT AND WHAT NOT.

*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ But of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **surely die.** Genesis 2:16-17 AMPC*

Death was the proscribed consequence for disobeying this principle.

In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust, you shall return. Genesis 3:19 AMPC

Death is the absence of God's presence in man's life

The serious consequence of man's disregard for God's principles is his loss of the presence of the Holy Spirit and subsequent separation from God. This spiritual death is at the root of all the ills that plague us as individuals and as

a society. Without Him, we have no hope of finding true happiness or of fulfilling the purpose for which we were born. Man cannot and will not live up to the potential and purpose God built into him until the love and intimacy which God and man enjoyed in the garden are restored!

Creator God is Man's Source

When God made man, He spoke with Himself and created man from Himself. Thus, man was created both to be of the same essence as God, who is spirit (John 4:24), and to live in the same environment as God, which is the realm of the spirit or the environment of God.

*So God created man in **His own image**, in the **image and likeness of God** **He created him**; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27 AMPC
(Colossians 3:9-10; James 3:8-9)*

Man cannot function effectively in the wrong environment. The following example will help us understand this. No matter how expensive an item is, when operating it in the wrong environment, it will not function effectively, e.g., a TV screen simply can't function underwater. The **place of God's presence**, Eden, is man's ideal environment. Unbroken fellowship between God and man is the environment God planned for man. Our ideal environment is nothing more and nothing less than the presence of God. Outside of this perfect environment, man cannot live a meaningful life.

Outside of God's presence, man is in a state of malfunction!

Man's choice to commit sin is often called the fall of man. This is a fall from God's presence with the accompanying loss of the Holy Spirit.

*Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ **So [God] drove out the man;** and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the **cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way**, to keep and guard the way to the tree of life.*

Genesis 3:23-24 AMPC (Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14, 19)

Eden was the place of God's presence. Man's banishment from Eden resulted in banishment from God's presence. Since the fall, man has been working hard to return to God's presence. Let us see why this is the case.

Contaminated

God is Holy, which means He is completely pure in motive and perfect in goodness, righteousness, and justice. Because man committed sin, he was contaminated and lost the privilege of being in the holy presence of God.

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy. Psalm 99:9 KJV

Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself, and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. Isaiah 8:13 KJV

For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isaiah 54:5 KJV

But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness. Isaiah 5:16 KJV

His presence is holy

*And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou **standest is holy ground**. Exodus 3:5 KJV*

*And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? ¹⁴ And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? ¹⁵ And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place **whereon thou standest is holy**. And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-15 KJV*

When man lost the Holy Spirit, he lost the holiness of God, which was his birthright, for he was created in God's image. God expelled man from Eden (His presence) and placed cherubim at the entrance of the garden to protect His presence from sinful man.

Cherubim

Cherubim are winged angels guarding the Lord's presence.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims shine forth. Psalm 80:1 KJV

The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. Psalm 99:1 KJV

O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16 KJV

Cherubim were particularly evident in the design of the Ark of the Covenant. With outspread wings, they guarded the Mercy Seat where God's presence dwelt on top of the Ark. When the priests entered the Most Holy Place, they had to pass by the cherubim to get to God. If any person contaminated by sin approached God's presence, he would never get past the cherubim. Sinful people could not enter God's presence, lest they be consumed by HIM.

Seraphim

Seraphim protected the holiness of God but also met Isaiah's need when he recognised his sinfulness in the presence of a Holy God. Thus, their role was both to protect God's presence and to preserve man after recognising his sinfulness by repenting.

*In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ² Above it stood the **seraphim**: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³ And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ⁴ And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a **man of unclean lips**, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. ⁶ **Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷ And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.** Isaiah 6:1-7 KJV*

Seraphim and cherubim didn't protect man from God. Their task was to protect God's presence from man. God's presence was still man's intended environment and the place where he would function properly despite his sin and his loss of holiness. Man was still the image of God. What has changed then? Man lost his ability to function and act like God! When man lost the Holy Spirit, he could no longer function from the spiritual and moral character of God. Man was still spirit, just like God is Spirit, but he could no longer function in truth and righteousness like God. This is why David, after committing sin with Bathsheba, desired God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me: ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Psalm 51:10-11 KJV

Jesus came to our Rescue

While we could not return to His presence because we were contaminated by SIN, Jesus died for us.

While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly. ⁷ Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a noble and lovable and generous benefactor someone might even dare to die.

⁸ But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that ***while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.***

⁹ Therefore, since we are ***now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood***, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if ***while we were enemies*** we were ***reconciled to God***

*through **the death of His Son**, it is much more [certain], now that we are reconciled, that **we shall be saved (daily delivered from sin's dominion) through His [resurrection] life.*** Romans 5:6-10 AMPC

God rescued us because He wanted His family back. He knows we are malfunctioning, and He restored us to our original environment. He deals with all our sin, iniquity, and rebellion before He allows us near His Holy Place. Even if we reach that Holy Place, we will find cherubim and seraphim hovering around God to prevent us from approaching Him before our sin is atoned for. Restoring you to your garden home has been God's plan all along. This proves how valuable we are to God despite our sins.

Reconnected

The very moment Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the entire world through one person. The only way we can reconnect to God is by accepting His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. He alone can cleanse us from all sin.

Therefore, even as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed on all men inasmuch as all sinned.

Romans 5:12 MKJV

David wrote, “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me*” (Psalm 51:5). Because of the fall, the seed of the woman became corruptible and contaminated. The human race was born in iniquity and sin. It was the Father’s long-range restoration plan to return us to our original state as before the fall. Yashuah made this clear to Nicodemus.

Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you will never enter God's kingdom. ⁶ For the natural realm only gives birth to things that are natural, but the spiritual realm gives birth to supernatural life! John 3:5-6 TPT

We were born from a corruptible seed, the flesh. But Yashuah gave us a second chance. He came to earth so we could have a born-again experience, this time from an incorruptible seed. This means to be born from above, from the spirit.

You shouldn't be amazed by my statement, 'You all must be born from above!' ⁸ For the Spirit-Wind blows as it chooses. You can hear its sound, but you don't know where it came from or where it's going. So it is the same with those who are Spirit-born! John 3:7-8 TPT

This born-again experience is a supernatural experience, orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. It comes from an incorruptible seed, which is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is the sound, the voice, which brings conviction that we are sinners in need of a Saviour.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23 KJV

Before coming into the holiness of Yehôvâh Elohim, we first need a transformation – a born-again experience from incorruptible seed to cleanse us. At that moment, something supernatural happens. Our sinful nature changes to a new creation man. Only now do we have the boldness to approach the Throne. Glory to God! The only way we can stay connected is by living our lives in His presence daily.

With this background, let us move on to a complete and detailed discussion of three of the baptisms that the Bible teaches. Some information will be repeated, for the truth to be set firmly in the heart of the believer.

THE PACKAGE DEAL

Bible scholars use different names for these baptisms. They also have different opinions on baptisms. The purpose of this book is to seek the Biblical truth so we can understand baptisms. The truth sets us free! Therefore, we will stick to what the Bible teaches and not to any person's opinion.

“Baptizō” is the Greek word for **“baptism”**. It means to wash, to dip, to be fully immersed by someone into something! In ancient times, this word was used when a garment or cloth was put into a vessel with dye to saturate it with a new colour. When the cloth was extracted from the dye, it was a brand new colour. The original word means “to dip and to dye”. This is what happens when we come unto Christ. We are dipped into the Blood of Jesus. It is the Blood that saturates us, cleanses us and changes us to never be the same again. We are dipped and dyed and then placed into Christ.

Baptisms is a doctrinal foundation for the believer. As we know by now, Paul refers to “one Lord, one faith and one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5). The true meaning of this is that there is only one baptism that will **ensure salvation**. The other baptisms are **not essential** for salvation, but **essential** for

receiving power to overcome the enemy and also to ensure freedom. The Holy Spirit led me to the following illustration of the baptisms package deal.

Let's use a very expensive and luxurious car as an illustration of the "**package deal**". The Bugatti is currently the fastest and most expensive car on the road. It comes with a **price tag** above 30 million US Dollars. It has 12 radiators to cool down the engine, which can generate an incredible 1500 hp. The tyres were specially designed to handle the top speed of 490km/h. Its unique body design and interior qualities distinguish it from any other automobile. All aspects mentioned are part of the complete Bugatti package. Without the appropriate engine or specific tyres and body design, the automobile will be incomplete and cannot be known as the Bugatti La Voiture Noire!

Most Christians come unto salvation, which is baptism by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ into salvation. Salvation comes with a **price tag** - the most expensive price ever paid for this "**brand new vehicle**", which is the new creation man (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The believer is now unique, as a Bugatti that is completely distinguished from any other car on the road. But without the necessary parts of a Bugatti, it is not a Bugatti. Imagine opening the bonnet and there is no engine inside! Fitting any other engine will change the characteristics of the Bugatti and it will not be able to reach 490 km/h. The engine refers to the **Holy Spirit baptism** into power - Dunamis Power, which is resurrection power!

The Bugatti has specially designed tyres to keep it on the road. Likewise, believers must have specially designed “tyres” to be able to apply Dunamis resurrection power. Any other tyre fitted on the Bugatti will burst at the speed of 490 km/h with catastrophic consequences. Most believers do not even have tyres on their Bugattis! Many consider water baptism (*immersion*) unnecessary because they think they are already saved and need not do anything else. Although it is true that we are saved and “look like a Bugatti”, a very important necessity is missing, namely, the **tyres**. Unless we bury our bodies in the water, we do not have appropriate tyres to keep us on the road. If the specially designed tyres are replaced by any other tyre (*sprinkling of water, for instance*), they will not be able to stand the heat!

Likewise, the believer is a new creation man in Christ Jesus and does not resemble any other human or creature on earth. As the characteristics and aerodynamic design of the Bugatti distinguish it from all other cars, so the Christian believer is distinguished from the unbeliever. We are designed to operate in supernatural power and speed to be the light of this world. We need a specially designed engine, which is the baptism by Jesus in the Holy Spirit to receive His Dunamis Power. Only then can the believer outrun all others. If the believer does not bury his old body through water immersion, the tyres will come off eventually, resulting in a devastating “*crash*”.

The following table lists some of the different baptisms. It is important to know that you must be baptised **BY** someone. There must be a substance **IN** which you are baptised and you must be baptised **UNTO** something, which is the result of the baptism.

Baptism	BY	IN	UNTO
John's	John the Baptist	Water	Repentance
Born-Again	Holy Spirit	The Body of Christ	Salvation
Jesus	Jesus	Holy Spirit	Power (Dunamis)
Believer	Believer	Water	Righteousness

Remember that John's baptism of repentance is not sufficient or necessary anymore. **Baptism into Jesus Christ is essential.**

And Paul said, John truly baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe into Him coming after him, that is, into Jesus Christ. Acts 19:4 MKJV

According to my understanding, there is nothing wrong with being baptised in water unto repentance, but it is not essential for salvation. There is only **ONE BAPTISM essential for salvation**, and that is when the **Holy Spirit** baptises us **in the Body of Christ unto SALVATION**.

Let us discuss the following three essential baptisms for the New Testament believer.

BORN-AGAIN BAPTISM

Many Bible scholars refer to this baptism as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When Paul says there is one Lord, one Faith and **ONE BAPTISM**, he refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Many members of the Body of Christ do not regard this as a baptism, but the Bible refers to it as baptism performed by the ***Holy Spirit*** unto ***salvation***. This is not water baptism nor an act of man. We are saved by grace through faith. Adonai orchestrates this baptism to be executed by the Holy Spirit so no one will ever boast of his salvation. Salvation is never through our own efforts or works, nor will any person receive glory for another person's conversion. **Nothing we do could ever earn us this salvation.**

*Throughout the coming ages we will be the visible display of the infinite riches of his grace and kindness, which was showered upon us in Jesus Christ. ⁸ **For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ!** ⁹ **So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.** Ephesians 2:7-9 TPT*

The first mandatory baptism is performed **by** the Holy Spirit, **in** the Body of Christ **unto** Salvation.

Our New Birth

Few people, I believe, truly understand that a new birth could only take place after Jesus' first appearance. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that we cannot **see** the Kingdom of God unless we are born again (John 3:3). Interpreting "see" as being able to "visualise/imagine", I always use the example of

erecting a house. I first need to visualise the house in my mind before that house can manifest in the physical realm. Likewise, before the Kingdom of God can manifest in the physical realm, it must first be visible in the mind.

Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot **enter** into the Kingdom of God (John 3:5). Scriptures are clear that we cannot ENTER unless we come out of the water, which implies baptism INTO Christ. This is the only way to die with Christ, be buried with Him, and be resurrected with Christ. At Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit was poured out onto 120 men in the Upper Room. After that, the baptism of John was no longer valid.

Now that the Holy Spirit has been poured out onto all flesh, He brings us to the place where we truly believe that Yehôvâh Elohim (the plural form of Eloah, referring to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) exists, and the Messiah is the only One who can bring us back into right standing before the Father (believing unto righteousness). We now openly confess with our mouths and make it unto salvation. This happens supernaturally. It is something our human mind cannot comprehend. Only the Holy Spirit can baptise you into the Body of Christ.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10 KJV

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV

The exact moment we accept Adonai as Lord and Saviour, we are baptised by one Spirit into one body, in the twinkling of an eye!

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:27 KJV

This is an act of the Holy Spirit, who supernaturally, without our participation, puts us into the Body of Christ. This is called baptism by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. This is the “one body, one Spirit and one baptism.”

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:4-6 KJV

This baptism accompanies salvation but there is nothing you can do to receive this baptism except to repent and call on Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit takes over from there. From that moment on, you are in Christ. This is grace at work in its fullness! **Congratulations** on your new life! You are now a **new creation man**!

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

We are made **perfect** and now have **the mind of Christ**!

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:17 KJV

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 KJV

We have the “**measure of Faith**”. This is the same faith Jesus had!

*...according as God hath dealt to every man **'THE** measure of faith'.*

Romans 12:3b KJV

Our newborn spirit is as perfect as Christ, vacuum-packed and **sealed** with the Holy Spirit and it will never change again!

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise**.* Ephesians 1:13 KJV

We lay down the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. We put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:22, 24).

*I am writing these things to all of you, my little children, **because your sins have been forgiven in the name of Jesus our Savior**.¹³ I am saying these things to you older men because you really know Christ, the one who has been alive from the beginning. And you young men, I am talking to you **because you have won your battle with Satan**. And I am writing to you younger boys and girls because you, too, have **learned to know God our Father**.* 1 John 2:12-13 TLB

*Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God;¹⁶ **for all these worldly things, these evil desires—the craze for sex, the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you, and the pride that comes from wealth and importance—these are not from God. They are from this evil world itself**.¹⁷ And this world is fading away, and these evil, forbidden things will go with it, but whoever keeps doing the will of God will live forever.* 1 John 2:15-17 TLB

*Dear children, **this world's last hour has come.** You have heard about the Antichrist who is coming—the one who is against Christ—and already many such persons have appeared. This makes us all the more certain that the end of the world is near. ¹⁹ These “against-Christ” people used to be members of our churches, but they never really belonged with us or else they would have stayed. When they left us it proved that they were not of us at all. ²⁰ But you are not like that, for the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you know the truth. ²¹ So I am not writing to you as to those who need to know the truth, but **I warn you as those who can discern the difference between true and false.** 1 John 2:18-21 TLB*

*Those who obey their **human nature cannot please God.** ⁹ But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, **you live as the Spirit** tells you to - if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. ¹¹ If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you. Romans 8:8-11 GNB*

*Those who are children of God do not continue to sin, for God's very nature is in them; and because God is their Father, **they cannot continue to sin.***

1 John 3:9 GNB

As a new creature, you can come to Jesus to drink from the living waters when you are thirsty. Streams of living water will pour from your innermost being.

On the last and most important day of the festival Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice, "Whoever is thirsty should come to me, and ³⁸ whoever believes

in me should drink. As the scripture says, 'Streams of life-giving water will pour out from his side.' John 7:37-38 GNB

This is the first essential baptism. It is performed by the Holy Spirit so we can make it unto salvation.

SAUL OF TARSUS

Saul persecuted the early church. One day, on his way to Damascus, the Lord appeared to him and he became converted. The conversion of Saul is proof of the steps required to become a follower and disciple of Yashuah.

Paul said the following about himself:

*I am a Jewish man who was born in Tarsus, a city of Turkey. However, I grew up in this city and was properly trained in the Mosaic law and tutored by Rabbi Gamaliel according to our ancestral customs. I've been extremely passionate in my desire to please God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I've hunted down and killed the followers of this Way. I have seized them and thrown them into prison, both men and women. ⁵ All of this can be verified by the high priest and the Supreme Council of Elders. For they even wrote letters to our fellow Jews of Damascus, authorizing me to arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. ⁶ "As I was on the road approaching Damascus, about noon, a brilliant heavenly light suddenly appeared, flashing all around me. ⁷ As I fell to the ground I heard a voice say, 'Saul, Saul... why are you persecuting me?' ⁸ **"I answered, 'Who are you, my Lord?'** "He said to me, **'I am Jesus, the Victorious. I am the one you are persecuting.'** ⁹ "Those who were with me saw the brilliant light, but they didn't hear the voice of the one who spoke to me. ¹⁰ **"So I asked, 'Lord, what am I to do?'** "And the Lord said to me, **'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be***

told about all that you are destined to do.¹¹ *“Because of the dazzling glory of the light, I couldn’t see—I was left blind. So they had to lead me by the hand the rest of the way into Damascus. Acts 22:3-11 TPT*

Saul had a life-changing encounter with the Lord. Again, there was a **confrontation!** When he cried out, *“Who are you, Lord?”*, it resembled the same protocol as with Peter when the Lord asked his disciples, *“Who do you say I am?”* After a **confrontation** with who the Lord is, there will be a **revelation!**

The Lord answered Saul’s question by saying that He was the victorious One, Jesus of Nazareth, whom Saul had persecuted. Saul responded to that revelation with an **acknowledgment**. He embraced the revelation by asking, *“What shall I do?”*

Notice Paul’s repentance and change of heart. The Holy Spirit baptised Saul without the intervention of any person. It was an act of grace. When the moment came, even the hard-hearted Saul received a changed heart! After his conversion, he didn’t hesitate to boldly make a public **confession** of his faith. Yashuah commanded him to get up and go into the city of Damascus. There, He would tell him what to do by sending another believer, Ananias, to Saul.

*A Jewish man living there named Ananias came to see me. He was a godly man who lived according to the law of Moses and was highly esteemed by the Jewish community.*¹³ *He stood beside me and said, ‘Saul! My brother, Saul—open your eyes and see again!’ At that very instant I opened my eyes and I*

could see! ¹⁴ *Then he said to me, ‘The God of our ancestors has destined you to know his plan and for you to see the Holy One and to hear his voice. ¹⁵ For you will be his witness to every race of people and will share with them everything that you’ve seen and heard. ¹⁶ **So now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins as you call upon his name.***’ Acts 22:12-16 TPT

The Lord commanded Ananias to go to the street called Straight and ask for Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:11). He had to inform Saul he was a chosen vessel unto God to bear His name before the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15).

*And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, **and be filled with the Holy Ghost.** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.* Acts 9:17-18 KJV

Ananias laid hands on Saul to restore his sight. The message he had for Saul was clear: “What are you waiting for, Saul? Get up, be baptised and wash away your sins as you call upon His name!”

Why do we postpone being baptised? New believers should immediately be baptised! There is no scriptural indication that we should first attend a discipleship course, bear fruit, or comply with any other requirements before being baptised for the washing away of our sins.

Ananias laid hands on Saul not only to receive his sight but also to receive the Holy Ghost. Then he arose and was baptised. Notice the urgency with which Ananias demanded that Saul be baptised and have his sins washed away.

So now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins as you call upon his name. Acts 22:16 TPT

The early church understood conversion, and to them, a born-again experience was a package deal.

After the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, the people were cut to the heart.

*When they heard this they were crushed and realized what they had done to Jesus. Deeply moved, they said to Peter and the other apostles, “**What do we need to do, brothers?**”³⁸ Peter replied, “**Repent and return to God, and each one of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus, the Anointed One, to have your sins removed. Then you may take hold of the gift of the Holy Spirit.**³⁹ For God’s promise of the Holy Spirit is for you and your families, for those yet to be born and for everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

⁴⁰ Peter preached to them and warned them with these words: ‘Be rescued from the wayward and perverse culture of this world!’ Acts 2:37-40 TPT

We must **repent**, have **faith** in Christ, be **baptised** for the remission and washing away of sins and **receive the Holy Ghost**.

We must follow and obey what the scriptures teach and not what man’s opinions, traditions or denominations expect of us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth to you as you read the following:

*And that **repentance and remission of sins** should be proclaimed in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47 MKJV*

*He who believes and is **baptized will be saved**, but he who does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16 MKJV*

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 MKJV

Why do we delay? Ananias asked Paul why he tarried. He needed to be baptised! The story of Phillip and the Ethiopian man on the desert route to Gaza proves we should not tarry! Directly after the Holy Spirit had convinced the eunuch to believe in the Messiah, he was keen to be baptised!

*And as they continued along on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch exclaimed, **See, [here is] water! What is to hinder my being baptized?**³⁷ And Philip said, **If you believe with all your heart [if you have a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then] you may. And he replied, I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**³⁸ And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him. Acts 8:36-38 AMPC*

If you believe with your heart and confess with your mouth (Romans 10:10), you immediately qualify for the believer's baptism, which is being baptised by a believer in water unto righteousness.

*And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and **clear***

conscience (*inward cleanness and peace*) before God [*because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours*] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:21 AMPC

This was a prophetic picture of the immersion that now saves you—not a bathing of the physical body but rather the response of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who is now in heaven at the place of supreme authority next to God. The very powers of heaven, including every angel and authority, now yield in submission to him.
1 Peter 3:21-22 TPT

It can't be said any clearer! When we go into the water, our old nature is buried and we receive a clear conscience before God. This is right standing before Adonai. We arise from the water into a new resurrected life as a new creation man.

We rarely obey the fundamental Doctrine of Christ. Today, I am a “cry in the wilderness”, preparing the way for the Messiah and making His paths straight (Mark 1:3).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BAPTISM

We need a Born-Again Experience.

Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.
John 3:5 AMPC [Ezek. 36:25-27]

We died with Jesus and were raised with Him. He disarmed the evil principalities and powers.

*In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by **stripping off the body of the flesh** (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). ¹² [Thus you were circumcised when] **you were buried with Him in [your] baptism**, in which you were also **raised with Him** [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead. ¹³ And you who were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (your sensuality, **your sinful carnal nature**), **[God] brought to life together with [Christ]**, having [freely] **forgiven us all our transgressions**, ¹⁴ Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross. ¹⁵ **[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us** and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]. Colossians 2:11-15 AMPC*

We should consider ourselves dead to SIN, but alive with GOD!

*Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death?** ⁴ **We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death**, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, **we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God].** ⁶ **We know that our old***

*(unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might **no longer be the slaves of sin.*** ⁷ *For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men].* ⁸ **Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,** ⁹ *Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.* ¹⁰ *For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him].* ¹¹ *Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus.*
Romans 6:3-11 AMPC

Be clothed with Christ.

*For in Christ Jesus you are all **sons of God through faith.*** ²⁷ *For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (**clothed yourselves with**) **Christ.*** ²⁸ *There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus.*** Galatians 3:26-28 AMPC

We should have the Mind of Christ.

*For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? **But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.*** 1 Corinthians 2:16 AMPC [Isaiah 40:13.]

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1-2 KJV*

There is only one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.

*[There is] one body and one Spirit--just as there is also one hope [that belongs] to the calling you received ⁵ [There is] **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**, ⁶ One God and Father of [us] all, Who is above all [Sovereign over all], pervading all and [living] in [us] all. ⁷ Yet grace (God's unmerited favor) was given to each of us individually [not indiscriminately, but in different ways] in proportion to the measure of Christ's [rich and bounteous] gift. Ephesians 4:4-7 AMPC*

We are baptised into one Body.

For by [means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13 AMPC

We cleanse the body with pure water.

*Let us all come forward and draw near with true (honest and sincere) hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by **faith** (by that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness), having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty (evil) conscience and our **bodies cleansed with pure water**. Hebrews 10:22 AMPC*

Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God. [Ezekiel 36:25-27] ⁶ What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:5-6 AMPC

We now become Sons and Daughters of the Kingdom.

You are now part of the family and the Kingdom of God Almighty. You are part of the Body of Christ!

*For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!** Romans 8:15 AMPC*

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature: old things are passed away**; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV*

Signs for those who believe.

And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; ¹⁸ They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well. ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:17-19 AMPC [Ps. 110:1]

PETER'S TEACHING AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are released from sins.

*Now when they heard this they were stung (cut) to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles (special messengers), Brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸ And Peter answered them, **Repent** (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and **release from your sins**; and you shall receive the gift of **the Holy Spirit**. Acts 2:37-38 AMPC*

*Therefore those who accepted and welcomed his message **were baptized**, and there were added that day about 3,000 souls. Acts 2:41 AMPC*

Baptism is important to God.

If baptism was not important to God, the Spirit would have transported Philip directly after he had preached to the eunuch. But the Spirit took Philip away only **AFTER** the man had been baptised. Also, keep in mind that even Jesus was baptised although He had no SIN!

*Then **Philip** opened his mouth, and beginning with this **portion of Scripture** he announced to him the glad tidings (Gospel) of Jesus and about Him.*

*³⁶ And as they continued along on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch exclaimed, See, [here is] water! **What is to hinder my being baptized?** ³⁷ And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart [if you have a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then] you may. And he replied, I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; **and both Philip and the***

*eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him.*³⁹ *And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord [suddenly] **caught away Philip**; and the eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing.*

Acts 8:35-39 AMPC

Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit fell on the people, even before they were baptised with water.

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message.*⁴⁵ *And the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed because the free gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the Gentiles.*⁴⁶ *For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked,*⁴⁷ ***Can anyone forbid or refuse water for baptizing these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?*** Acts 10:44-47 AMPC

Paul ministered to people and straight away after they had believed, he baptised them in the same hour.

*And he took them the same hour of the night and bathed [them because of their bloody] wounds, and he **was baptized immediately and all [the members of] his [household]**.* Acts 16:33 AMPC

Paul's Testimony of his own baptism.

*And instantly something like scales fell from [Saul's] eyes, and he recovered his sight. Then he arose and was **baptized**.* Act 9:18 AMPC

More examples of people who were baptised.

*But Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed [that Jesus is the Messiah and acknowledged Him with joyful trust as Savior and Lord], together with his entire household; and many of the Corinthians who listened [to Paul also] **believed and were baptized.** Acts 18:8 AMPC*

*Came to see me, and standing by my side said to me, Brother Saul, look up and receive back your sight. And in that very instant I [recovered my sight and] looking up saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, The God of our forefathers has destined and appointed you to come progressively to know His will [to perceive, to recognize more strongly and clearly, and to become better and more intimately acquainted with His will], and to see the Righteous One (Jesus Christ, the Messiah), and to hear a voice from His [own] mouth and a message from His [own] lips; ¹⁵ For you will be His witness unto all men of everything that you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now, why do you delay? **Rise and be baptized, and by calling upon His name, wash away your sins.** Acts 22:13-16 AMPC*

Because of wrong doctrine, many born-again people believe they have already received the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit already lives inside of them. The Scripture teaches us differently.

*When he had said this, he **breathed on them and told them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’** John 20:22 ISV*

This must have been an act of salvation because just before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He commanded the very same group of people to not leave Jerusalem but wait for the Holy Spirit!

While he was meeting with them, he ordered them, ‘Don’t leave Jerusalem. Instead, wait for what the Father has promised, about which you heard me speak. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit a few days from now.’ Acts 1:4 ISV

*But you will **receive power** when the **Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 NIV*

We will receive power when we receive the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ has become powerless because of the absence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We need to tap into this source not only by speaking the Gospel but by demonstrating God’s Kingdom with signs and wonders.

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

1 Corinthians 4:20 KJV

We cannot exercise authority, nor do what Jesus commanded, namely, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils (Mat 10:8) unless we receive the Holy Ghost and His power!

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Ghost and with power**: who went about doing good, and **healing** all that were **oppressed of the devil**; for God was with him. Acts 10:38 KJV*

*And Stephen, **full of faith and power**, did great **wonders** and **miracles** among the people. Acts 6:8 KJV*

Don’t resist the power of God! Receive the Holy Spirit and the power and start demonstrating it as Jesus commanded!

*Let every **soul be in subjection to the higher powers**: for there is no power but of God; and the **powers that be are ordained of God**.² Therefore he that **resisteth the power**, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment. Romans 13:1-2 ASV*

*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**:⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 KJV

THE BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

This baptism is sometimes called the believer's baptism or the Christian baptism. It is our water baptism, and it follows salvation. If you were baptised before salvation took place, the baptism would be of no value. Water baptism is the burying of the old man. The old man must die!

Yashuah commanded us to be baptised! Those who do not go through water baptism struggle for the rest of their lives to obey Adonai.

Remember, we are laying down the foundation to restore the temple of God. Although some instructions given to us in the Bible are not essential for salvation, they are still requirements for living a holy and obedient life. Believers sometimes ignore these requirements, resulting in foundations giving in and houses collapsing. Yahshuah commanded us to be immersed for a reason, namely, that all righteousness be fulfilled. Therefore, my beloved, this baptism is essential for receiving a clear **conscience**. It gives us right standing before Adonai and enables us to walk in righteousness.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist's ministry was brief but crucial. He appeared on the scene as a voice in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Messiah. He was the bridge between two dispensations - the dispensation of the law and the prophets, and the dispensation of grace and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His message differed from any preceding messages - *"Repent and be baptized for the complete cancellation of sins."*

*It starts with Isaiah the prophet, who wrote: Listen! I am sending my messenger ahead of you and he will prepare your way!³ He is a thunderous voice of one who shouts in the wilderness: "Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord Yahweh, and clear a straight path inside your hearts for him!"⁴ John the Baptizer was the messenger who appeared in the wilderness, preaching a **baptism of repentance for the complete cancellation of sins**.⁵ A steady stream of people came to be dipped in the Jordan River as they publicly confessed their sins. They came from all over southern Israel, including nearly all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

Mark 1:2-5 TPT

The Messiah could not come unless the hearts of the people were prepared for repentance. Likewise, the 2nd coming of Christ shall occur only when the hearts of people have been prepared for His return.

WATER BAPTISM

The Bible teaches two water baptisms, both **IN** something and **UNTO** something.

First, the baptism of John the Baptist **IN** water and **UNTO** repentance. This is also referred to as the baptism of repentance.

Secondly, the baptism **IN** the Name of the Lord Jesus **UNTO** Christ, also referred to as the “Christian baptism”.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:5 KJV

There is confusion and a lack of true understanding of the New Testament believer's baptism. In Ephesus, Paul asked certain disciples if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed. They replied that they had never heard of the Holy Ghost. Paul asked them unto what then were they baptised and they responded by saying unto John's baptism. Paul then explained they had been baptised with the baptism of repentance but should still be baptised in the Name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:1-10).

*Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*** Acts 19:4-5 KJV

When someone is immersed, he is baptised in the Name of Jesus. It is important to know the person is also baptised INTO Christ.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27 KJV

This baptism is essential for being a disciple of Christ! Many denominations merely educate and accommodate their church members. They never guide them into being disciples of Yashuah. They mostly make disciples for their own ministries and not necessarily for the Kingdom of Yashuah. Idle church members and disciples will misrepresent the truth.

We need to be disciples of Christ!

Jesus was circumcised as an eight-day-old baby. It is considered general knowledge that water baptism replaced circumcision. Yet, the same denominations believing this are silent about why this same circumcised Baby was later immersed in water. Jesus did not have any sin to repent for and yet was baptised. This confirms that baptism in water unto repentance is not a requirement for the New Testament believers.

Satan tries everything in his power to blind believers from seeing the glory of Christ, His image and His likeness!

*For the God of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), **Who is the Image and Likeness of God.*** 2 Corinthians 4:4 AMPC

Let us put on the full armour of light, so the glory of Christ can manifest in and through us!

*Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For **salvation (final deliverance) is nearer** to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah). ¹² The night is far gone and the day is almost here. **Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light.** ¹³ Let us live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly as in the [open light of] day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ **But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ** (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts). Romans 13:11-14 AMPC*

The sprinkling of babies in the religious system is not only insufficient but completely unscriptural and senseless. The Bible is clear that faith in Jesus is a prerequisite for baptism. In Greek, the word “**baptism**” is “**Baptizo**”, which means “*to immerse; to dunk, to submerge*”. **It does not mean to sprinkle!**” Also, a person is not scripturally baptised if it was done before true conversion. An infant or young child cannot be converted!

*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; **what doth hinder me to be baptized?** ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou **believest with all thine heart**, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Acts 8:36-37 KJV*

*And Philip said If you believe with all your heart [**if you have a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then**] you may. And he replied I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Acts 8:37 AMPC*

The Blood of Jesus

We cannot be qualified to receive the presence of God into our lives unless the Blood of Jesus cleanses us and makes way for the return of God's Spirit to our human temples. The key to the continuous work of Jesus in each of us is the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit is alive in us, He restores the presence of God in our lives and leads us into the holiness that was our birthright at creation. The Holy Spirit is God. He is the key to being returned to God's presence.

Unto Righteousness

The Holy Spirit revealed to me a deep truth regarding Jacob's struggle with the Angel. On the night Jacob, whose name means "**deceiver**", struggled with the Angel, the Angel hit him on his thigh and he was permanently crippled.

And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. Genesis 32:25 KJV

Jacob, as the man in the flesh, overcame. His name was changed to Israel, which refers to the spiritual man. He then called out, "*I have seen Adonai face to face, and my soul was saved*" (verse 30). In contrast, Esau, which means "**reddish**", refers to the nature of Adam, the old man in the flesh. Esau never overcame. His name was changed to Edom. Jacob and Esau became a typology* of the man in the flesh (*Esau/Edom*), and the new spiritual man as an overcomer (*Jacob*). He now walks in righteousness

(Israel). Very relevant that it was the Edomites who later prevented Israel from entering the Promised Land!

** A typology is a Christian theology involving the interpretation of some figures and events in the Old Testament as foreshadowing events in the New Testament.*

How is Jacob's struggle with the Angel relevant to baptism? Here is the key:

And he has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:16 JUB

The Angel hit Jacob on his thigh, after which he received a new name of righteousness. Jacob, as Israel, now represents the new creation man – the man in the spirit. It is no coincidence that the King of Kings' name is written on His thigh. He is our King of Righteousness.

Russell Stendal wrote the following.

“All of those who have come to maturity in the life of Christ will participate with Jesus as joint heirs in Christ. His garment is his covering, and the Holy Spirit covers all those who walk in his righteousness. **His thigh has to do with his ability to walk in righteousness.** He is able to cover us and cause us to walk in righteousness with him because he is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. He has all authority everywhere. The name written on his garment and on his thigh means that all of his promises will be fulfilled.”

Stendal, Russell M. Revelation Unveiled: Understanding the Heart of Jesus in the Imminent Day of the Lord (pp. 221-222). Aneko Press. Kindle Edition.

When Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptised by him, John replied he was not worthy to do so. Yashuah insisted, so all righteousness could be fulfilled.

But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵ 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.

Matthew 3:14-15 KJV

Yashuah was baptised to give us right standing before the Father. This act restored us to our position before the fall. What a divine revelation!

Baptism in water confirms our old nature is now buried with Christ to fulfil all righteousness.

We are therefore baptised IN water UNTO righteousness which gives us right standing before Christ Jesus.

Fulfilling all righteousness

Jesus' baptism was for the fulfilment of all righteousness. All three Godheads (*Triunity*) were present - the Son, the Holy Spirit who descended like a dove, and the Father who presented Himself in an audible voice.

*And Jesus, after he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, behold, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and "**lighting**" upon him; Matthew 3:16 JUB*

Notice that the "dove and lighting" were upon the Son. The New King James Version uses the word "**alight**". As a verb, it means "descending from the air

and settling (**of a bird**)". As an adjective, it means "on fire, set on fire, burning".

The Spirit of Adonai descended like a dove from the sky, settled on Him and set Him on fire!

Glory to GOD! The Son was baptised INTO the Holy Ghost! The Father recorded the following words in an audible voice.

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17 KJV

After baptism in water into Christ, the Father sees us as having the image we had before the fall.

*You perceive **how God sees you in the mirror of the Word**, but then you go out and forget your divine origin. ²⁵ But those who set their gaze deeply into the perfecting **law of liberty** are fascinated by and respond to the truth they hear and are strengthened by it—they experience God's blessing in all that they do! James 1:24-25 TPT*

"Seeing the man **in the mirror**" means seeing ourselves as God has been seeing us from the beginning, even before the fall of Adam, which resulted in sin's devastation to human hearts. The man in the mirror is the new creation man. We all fall short of seeing the new creation man in the mirror! The devil constantly reminds us of the past, of the old man in the flesh. This is double-mindedness. Baptism into Christ brings us back to this state of righteousness and gives us right standing before the Father.

There is nothing to add to this Gospel!

James says we are brought into the perfect law of liberty. At last, we have freedom! Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of the past (Galatians 5:1 TPT).

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2 KJV

Because of water baptism into Christ, we are now justified and have peace with Adonai. The word “**justify**” in Greek is “**dikaioō**”.

dikaioō

dik-ah-yo'-o

to render (that is, show or regard as) just or innocent: - free, justify, be righteous.

This means we are:

- Acquitted.
- Declared not guilty.
- Reckoned righteous.
- Made righteous.

This is grace and mercy at its highest level! We need to fully capture this profound truth. This is why Paul insists that there is just one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism. Many believers forfeit their right standing before God because of a lack of knowledge or unwillingness to be immersed in water into Christ Jesus! After baptism into Christ, we are dead to sin.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ 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. Romans 6:3-4 KJV

We are clothed with Christ and are a new creation man.

*For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (**clothed yourselves with**) **Christ**.²⁸ There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. Galatians 3:27-28 AMPC*

When we are clothed with Christ, there is no distinction between male and female, rich and poor, or between ethnic races, as we are now one in Christ! We are sons and daughters in a new family which is the Body of Christ.

Baptism is a commitment to identify with His death, burial and resurrection. Baptism in water into Christ represents baptism into His death. We died with Him, were raised with Him and now experience a completely different and new kind of life. The Holy Spirit raised Yashuah from the dead and we, too, will be raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit. We come to the end of our old Adam nature at baptism. When we rise out of the water, we become like Him. His resurrection reversed the decision of a criminal's death.

Before Yashuah ascended into heaven, He commanded His disciples:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

He did not command them to gather church members. Church members misrepresent the truth we proclaim. If there is no commitment in your heart to be a disciple of Christ, you do not have the right to be baptised. The church baptises people and then waits for them to commit. The Bible requires a commitment first and then immediate baptism, after which teaching follows to equip them in the Doctrine of Christ.

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that **believeth and is baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:15-16 KJV*

He that believes and is baptised shall be saved. The Bible teaches no delay and no equipping first. Only when you believe and are baptised, shall you be saved. Bearing fruit follows baptism and is not a requirement to be saved. Believing that Christ died, was buried, and raised from the dead on the third day is the only requirement.

Saints, I have been studying these scriptures for many years and find no proof of salvation without the result of baptism.

The following experiences should, however, precede baptism:

- We must have heard the Gospel.
- We must have repented.
- We must believe the Gospel.
- We must have a good conscience toward God.

An infant cannot meet any of these conditions. That settles the inefficiency of the sprinkling of babies. I believe we often baptise pagans. The only change that takes place at their baptism is that they are dry before baptism and wet afterwards! The following people understood the concept that salvation depended on this one mandatory baptism.

- Three thousand believers were baptised immediately after Pentecost (Acts 2) because they believed and repented.
- The Ethiopian heard the Gospel and was immediately baptised by Philip (Acts 8).
- Cornelius' household was immersed from above, received the Holy Spirit and was immediately baptised in water into Christ.

An Act of Righteousness

Let us dig deep and lay down a good foundation regarding this topic. Paul explains that we are justified, declared righteous, and given right standing with Adonai.

Therefore, since we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Romans 5:1 AMPC

Therefore, since we are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more [certain], now that we are reconciled, that we shall be

saved (daily delivered from sin's dominion) through His [resurrection] life.

Romans 5:9-10 AMPC

We need water baptism to share in Yashuah's resurrection life.

Therefore, as sin came into the world through one man, and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned. Romans 5:12 AMP

*For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). ¹⁸ Well then, as one man's trespass [one man's false step and falling away led] to condemnation for all men, **so one Man's act of righteousness** [leads] to acquittal and right standing with God and life for all men. ¹⁹ For just as by one man's disobedience (failing to hear, heedlessness, and carelessness) the many were constituted sinners, so by one Man's obedience the many will be constituted righteous (made acceptable to God, brought into right standing with Him). ²⁰ **But then Law came in, [only] to expand and increase the trespass [making it more apparent and exciting opposition]. But where sin increased and abounded, grace (God's unmerited favor) has surpassed it and increased the more and superabounded,** ²¹ So that, [just] as sin has reigned in death, [so] grace (His unearned and undeserved favor) might reign also through righteousness (right standing with God) which issues in eternal life through Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) our Lord. Romans 5:17-21 AMPC*

Paul explains right standing before God in the next chapter.

What shall we say [to all this]? Are we to remain in sin in order that God's grace (favor and mercy) may multiply and overflow? Romans 6:1 AMPC

Of course not! God forbid! May it never even be suggested in any Bible translation! The Passion Translation says it is “a terrible thought”. How could we take advantage of Adonai’s grace?

*What a terrible thought! We have died to sin once and for all, as a dead man passes away from this life. So how could we live under sin’s rule a moment longer? ³ Or have you forgotten that all of us who **were immersed into union with Jesus, the Anointed One, were immersed into union with his death?***

Romans 6:2-3 TPT

Clearly, there is death in sin. But our nature has changed. We are still human and commit sin but it is not our nature to sin any longer.

*We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. ⁵ **For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God].** ⁶ We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might **no longer be the slaves of sin.** ⁷ For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men]. ⁸ **Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,** ⁹ **Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.** ¹⁰ For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus. ¹² **Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal (short-***

lived, perishable) bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions. ¹³ Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [and faculties] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to [perpetual] life, and your bodily members [and faculties] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God's favor and mercy]. ¹⁵ **What then [are we to conclude]?** Shall we sin because we live not under Law but under God's favor and mercy? **Certainly not!** ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you continually surrender yourselves to anyone to do his will, you are the slaves of him whom you obey, whether that be to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (right doing and right standing with God)? ¹⁷ But thank God, though you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed. ¹⁸ **And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action).** ¹⁹ I am speaking in familiar human terms because of your natural limitations. For as you yielded your bodily members [and faculties] as servants to impurity and ever increasing lawlessness, so now yield your bodily members [and faculties] once for all as servants to righteousness (right being and doing) [which leads] to **sanctification**. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But then what benefit (return) did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? [None] for the end of those things is death. ²² **But now since you have been set free from sin and have become the slaves of God, you have your present reward in holiness and its end is eternal life.** ²³ For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free

gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:4-23 AMPC

Water baptism brings us unto a new MASTER of righteousness. Sin has no dominion over us anymore!

Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16 MKJV

Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Romans 6:3 AMPC.

Our commitment is to be executed on the stake for the remission of sin.

For since we are permanently grafted into him to experience a death like his, then we are permanently grafted into him to experience a resurrection like his and the new life that it imparts. Romans 6:5 TPT

Don Krow told of a friend who led a witch to the Lord one evening. The next morning, all the other witches came running to him, asking very anxiously:

“Did you baptise the witch? Did you baptise the witch?”

Transfer from one domain to another takes place during baptism! The witches knew it was over! Baptism is the cutting-off point.

The same happens in Jewish tradition. When family members get baptised, they are often expelled from the family. As New Testament believers, we are sometimes so arrogant because of a lack of knowledge! Water baptism is not merely a symbol but an essentiality to walk in righteousness.

At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past. Galatians 5:1 TPT

Through our union with him we have experienced circumcision of heart. All of the guilt and power of sin has been cut away and is now extinct because of what Christ, the Anointed One, has accomplished for us. ¹²For we've been buried with him into his death. Our "baptism into death" also means we were raised with him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised him from death's realm. Colossians 2:11-12 TPT

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. ²⁷For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ. Galatians 3:26-27 AMPC

And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed], then you are Abraham's offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:29 AMPC

In conclusion, when we go into the water with repentance of sin and with faith in Christ Jesus, we appeal to Adonai for a clear conscience. We come out of the water of spiritual circumcision of the old nature and now we put on Christ. We clothe ourselves with the Anointed One.

The following scriptures bring further Biblical truths on baptism.

- Acts 8:12-15
- Acts 8:36-38
- Acts 9:18
- Acts 10:47

- Acts 16:15
- Acts 16:33
- Acts 19:5

This brings us to the next baptism, which is not essential for salvation, but essential for receiving power. The flesh will always manifest by trying to convince us that this baptism by Jesus in the Holy Spirit to receive power is not necessary. Satan does not want us to be baptised! What do we need this power for? We receive Dunamis Power, or resurrection power, to stand against the wiles of the devil.

BAPTISM BY JESUS

Most denominations call this baptism by Jesus, the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Yashuah was immersed in water to fulfil all righteousness. As He came out of the water, He was baptised into the Holy Spirit who descended upon Him like a dove and set Him on fire.

Yehôvâh Elohim created man in His image and likeness, and since the fall, the Father has been desiring to restore and unite us back into Him. Therefore, we must put on His likeness.

Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. Romans 13:14 NLT

And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. Galatians 3:27 NLT

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.** Matthew 3:11 KJV*

Here we clearly see Yashuah as the Baptiser and the medium is the Holy Spirit. Jesus repeated John's words before His ascension into the heavens:

*For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall **be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence. Acts 1:5 KJV*

This occurred on the day of Pentecost in the upper room where 120 men received their second baptism. They had received the first baptism and were already in Christ. This second baptism was an act performed by Yashuah Himself. This baptism, however, is not a requirement for salvation.

Many wrongly believe this baptism is optional and do not realise how essential it is for believers. The earlier churches never considered this baptism as optional, although it was not essential for salvation. It was required for another reason. **If you need spiritual power, you need this baptism of Jesus into the Holy Ghost.** Jesus baptises us into the power of the Holy Spirit. It is freely available to every believer!

A SYMBOL OF GOD'S APPROVAL

The Holy Spirit baptism is a symbol of God's approval. Immediately after the baptism of Christ, the Spirit fell upon Him. God declared that Jesus was His son with whom He was well pleased.

In Acts 10, the Gospel of Christ had not yet been extended to include the Gentiles. As a sign that God had granted salvation to both the Jews and the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit fell upon the centurion, Cornelius, and all those who heard the words of Peter (Acts 10:30-48). Upon seeing the sign of God's approval of the Gentiles, Peter remarked, "*Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?*" Immediately, they underwent baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ. The Spirit was poured out on "all flesh", both Jews and Gentiles, fulfilling Joel 2:28.

Jesus gave His disciples the reason they would be baptised into the Holy Spirit.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8 KJV

The word "**power**" is "***Dunamis***" in Greek, which means "miraculous power" or "might".

G1411 (Strong's)

dunamis

doo'-nam-is

From G1410; force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

We need this power to fulfil our assignment to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Matthew 10:7-8 KJV

We also need this power to overcome the enemy.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
Luke 10:19 KJV

When we receive His Dunamis Power, it is active within our human bodies.

And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you. Romans 8:11 AMPC

This power enables our mortal, short-lived, perishable bodies to be restored. We need resurrection power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and overcome the enemy! We need this Dunamis Power to take authority over the enemy. Without it, we cannot exercise authority, as the sons of the chief of the priests discovered.

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? ¹⁶ And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Acts 19:14-16 KJV

We need Dunamis Power to stand and hold our ground against the enemy. I am convinced that many believers suffer because they have never received the baptism in the Holy Ghost by Yashuah.

So, how would we know if we have indeed received the baptism of Yashuah? When we speak in tongues, and when the sick are healed when we lay hands on them!

*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

Mark 16:16-18 KJV

This baptism by Jesus is so important that it is recorded in all four Gospels.

*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.*** Matthew 3:11 KJV

I indeed have baptized you in water, but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:8 KJV

John answered all, saying, I indeed baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I comes, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to loose. He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke 3:16 MKJV

And I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water, that One said to me, Upon whom you shall see the Spirit descending, and remaining upon Him, He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. John 1:33 MKJV

In One Accord

On the day of Pentecost, all were in one accord.

And in the fulfilling of the day of Pentecost, they were all with one accord in one place. Acts 2:1 MKJV

God promised in the Old Testament that He would return a pure language to the people.

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Zephaniah 3:9 KJV

Then I will give to the peoples [clear and pure speech from] purified lips [which reflect their purified hearts], That all of them may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder (united). Zephaniah 3:9 AMP

*For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with **one accord**.*

Zephaniah 3:9 ESV

God changes the speech of the people to a pure speech, and they will SERVE HIM with **ONE ACCORD!**

The Lord is faithful! When He ascended to heaven, He promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all with **one accord** in one place. In Acts 2:1, the Lord says when He comes back, He will restore a pure language for His people. This means He will give back one language without any profanity.

Submit your spiritual tongue to the Lord every day!

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus's promise of the Holy Ghost was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after His resurrection. While they were all in one accord, a sound from heaven came like a mighty wind and filled the whole house. Tongues of fire came upon each individual and filled them with the Holy Spirit. They all spoke in their own languages. The baptism in the Holy Ghost came from above and immersed them. Streams of living water came out of their innermost beings and out of their hearts. Their mouths uttered spiritual words as the Spirit spoke to their spirit.

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart'. John 7:38 NLT

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34 KJV

We cannot hold back when the Holy Ghost immerses us! The heart and the mouth will overflow! This is where God and man must co-operate. Adonai will immerse and fill us, but we must do the speaking.

Quenching the Spirit

Do not quench the Spirit when He deposits a word into your heart. Do not withhold when He gives you a prophecy or any command to fulfil. We sometimes bottle up the words that are within us. We quench what the Holy Spirit deposits into us and do not give free expression to our spiritual emotions. Don't hold back! Let the Holy Spirit utter what He wants to minister to the Body of Christ through your innermost belly.

The Seal

Yashuah immerses us in the Holy Ghost. He deposits into us and then seals us with the Holy Spirit.

And He has sealed us and having given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 1:22 MKJV

He is given to us like an engagement ring, as the first installment of what's coming! He is our hope-promise of a future inheritance which seals us until we have all of redemption's promises and experience complete freedom—all for the supreme glory and honor of God! Ephesians 1:14 TPT

Paul uses the imagery of a marriage to explain this seal. It is like the engagement ring a bridegroom gives his fiancée to indicate that he plans to marry her. The engagement ring seals the commitment until the marriage ceremony and supper take place.

Paul ends this verse by stating there is a promise to experience total and complete freedom. The moment we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths, Yashuah is Lord and Saviour, we are sealed with the Holy Ghost. Complete freedom comes with soul salvation!

Through our faith, the mighty power of God constantly guards us until our full salvation is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:5 TPT

For you are reaping the harvest of your faith—the full salvation promised you—your souls' victory! 1 Peter 1:9 TPT

The KJV says, “*obtaining the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*”

Here we find Adonai's promise that we belong to Him. He bought us out of slavery and put His seal on us, never to be sold as slaves again. This down payment also confirms He will return with His reward to pay the rest, as the parable of the good Samaritan indicates. The innkeeper (host) was paid two denarii to take care of the wounded man with a promise that the Samaritan would return to repay the innkeeper for any other expenses incurred (Luke 10:35). Also, this down payment sets us apart for His special use.

*And so those whom God **set apart, he called; and those he called, he put right with himself**, and he shared his glory with them. Romans 8:30 GNT*

This seal is something audible, visible and public and it cannot be kept a secret. It begins when we receive our language.

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; **In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.** Mark 16:17-18 KJV*

This is the seal the apostles and other believers received.

No other seal is needed.

The apostles waited in the upper room for the Holy Ghost as they had not yet received the seal. The moment they received the Holy Ghost, they spoke in tongues and were rewarded for waiting. Afterwards, Peter, a Jew, was sent by the Holy Spirit to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. It was forbidden for a Jew to enter the house of a Gentile.

Peter thought he would share the Gospel with them and afterwards baptise them in water, but while he was still speaking, the Holy Ghost fell on the household of Cornelius. Peter and all who came with him were astonished that the Holy Spirit fell even before water baptism took place.

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those hearing the Word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision, who believed (as many as came with Peter), were astonished because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the nations also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ **Can anyone forbid water that these, who have received the Holy Ghost as well as we, should not be baptized?** Acts 10:44-47 MKJV*

When they, too, received the seal, Peter realised their water baptism could not be forbidden. This reveals another Biblical truth, namely that bearing fruit is not a prerequisite for baptism. It is not a requirement for any believer to be baptised by Jesus in the Holy Ghost unto Dunamis Power, nor by a believer in water unto righteousness.

We can conclude that there are two ways to administer the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

- It can fall on people directly from heaven.
- It can be received by the laying on of hands by believers.

In Acts 8, Philip preached the Gospel, and believers were baptised in water. John and Peter were sent to Samaria to lay hands on the converts to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15). In Acts 9, Ananias laid hands on Saul to receive

his sight and the Holy Ghost (Acts 9:17). In Acts 19, Paul found disciples who were already baptised by John's baptism. They were disciples of John and not yet baptised into Jesus Christ. We should not merely be disciples of ministries or churches. We need to be disciples of Jesus. Paul baptised them into Jesus and laid hands on them. Then the Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:3-6).

Purpose

The purpose of this baptism is to receive supernatural power, also known as resurrection power, or Dunamis Power. Many believers forfeit this power because they do not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The English word for Dunamis is “**dynamite**”, referring to an explosive. Likewise, spiritual “dynamite” causes an explosion within the believer to be a witness for Yashuah and raise the dead, heal the sick and cleanse the lepers.

Sinners can discern the presence of the power!

The disciples demonstrated this power when they preached the Gospel.

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

1 Corinthians 4:20 ESV

Saints, we need to go back to the basics. Paul said the only thing worth talking about was that which the Holy Spirit revealed to him.

And I will not be presumptuous to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me. For many non-Jewish people are coming into faith's obedience by the power of the Spirit of God, which is displayed through mighty signs and amazing wonders, both in word and deed. Starting from

Jerusalem I went from place to place as far as the distant Roman province of Illyricum, fully preaching the wonderful message of Christ.

Romans 15:18-19 TPT

There are three main reasons we need to tend to the Gospel.

- Yashuah proclaims it.
- It has been confirmed by eyewitnesses.
- The Holy Spirit bears supernatural testimony by signs and wonders.

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

For this reason we must pay closer attention to the things we have heard, or we may drift away, ² because if the message spoken by angels was reliable, and every violation and act of disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how will we escape if we neglect a salvation as great as this? It was first proclaimed by the Lord himself, and then it was confirmed to us by those who heard him, ⁴ while God added his testimony through signs, wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:1-4 ISV

Unity

The main reason for baptism in the Holy Spirit is to bring unity within the Body of Christ.

*For by one Spirit all of us, Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, were baptized **into one body** and were all privileged to drink from one Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:13 ISV

When the Holy Ghost fell on the disciples on Pentecost, they were in one accord, meaning there was unity amongst them. They were one in Spirit and

one in Body to produce unity. Today, however, many believers within the Body of Christ are out to bring division, confusion, strife and envy.

I urge you, my brothers and sisters, for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree to live in unity with one another and put to rest any division that attempts to tear you apart. Be restored as one united body living in perfect harmony. Form a consistent choreography among yourselves, having a common perspective with shared values. ¹¹ My dear brothers and sisters, I have a serious concern I need to bring up with you, for I have been informed by those of Chloe's house church that you have been destructively arguing among yourselves. ¹² And I need to bring this up because each of you is claiming loyalty to different preachers. Some are saying, "I am a disciple of Paul," or, "I follow Apollos," or, "I am a disciple of Peter the Rock," and some, "I belong only to Christ." ¹³ But let me ask you, is Christ divided up into groups? Did I die on the cross for you? At your baptism did you pledge yourselves to follow Paul? 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 TPT

Brothers and sisters, when I was with you I found it impossible to speak to you as those who are spiritually mature people, for you are still dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. And because you are immature infants in Christ, ² I had to nurse you and feed you with "milk," not with the solid food of more advanced teachings, because you weren't ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready to be fed solid food, ³ for you are living your lives dominated by the mind-set of the flesh. Ask yourselves: Is there jealousy among you? Do you compare yourselves with others? Do you quarrel like children and end up taking sides? If so, this proves that you are living your lives centered on yourselves, dominated by the mind-set of the flesh, and behaving like unbelievers. ⁴ For when you divide yourselves up in groups—a "Paul group" and an "Apollos group"—you're acting like people without the Spirit's influence. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 TPT

My heart is broken before the Lord because of disunity in the Body of Christ.

I don't want to find you in disunity, with jealousy and angry outbursts, with selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance, and turmoil. ²¹ I'm actually afraid that on my next visit my God will humble me in front of you as I shed tears over those who keep sinning without repenting of their impurity, sexual immorality, and perversion. 2 Corinthians 12:20b-21 TPT

A PERSONAL WARNING

We should never be involved in activities that cause **division** in the Body of Christ. If you encounter any person or ministry causing confusion, division, strife or envy to divide the church or discredit a ministry or person – FLEE!

“Let there be no strife between us”, Abraham said to his nephew, Lot, when they decided to split up.

Then Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee and between my pastors and thine, for we are brethren. Genesis 13:8 JUB

Abraham knew what envy and strife would do, just as I teach the Body of Christ that strife opens the door for “every evil work” (James 3:16 KJV). I do not tolerate this in my own life.

The Lord sometimes separates people strategically and scatters them into the nations as labourers in the field for the end-time harvest (1 Peter 1:1 TPT). Let us labour in HIS field without strife, division and confusion. When He breaks people loose from a group or a ministry, let us

release and bless one another with love to be harvesters for the Lord. For in the fullness of time, when the Gentiles have come in the Nations of Israel will be saved.

For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. Romans 11:25 TLV

Paul and Barnabas are an example. Since Paul's conversion, they had been ministering together, and at a certain point, there was a huge disagreement between them.

Disagreement between Paul and Barnabas

*After some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's travel to the regions where we've preached the word of God and see how the believers are getting along."³⁷ Barnabas wished to take Mark (also known as John) along with them,³⁸ but Paul disagreed. He didn't think it was proper to take the one who had deserted them in south-central Turkey, leaving them to do their missionary work without him.³⁹ **It became a heated argument between them, a disagreement so sharp that they parted from each other.** Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus.⁴⁰ And Paul chose Silas as his partner. After the believers prayed for them, asking for the Lord's favor on their ministry, they left⁴¹ for Syria and southeast Turkey. Every place they went, they left the church stronger and more encouraged than before. Acts 15:36-41 TPT*

Until then, Paul and Barnabas had been operating like two focused and goal-oriented cart horses. Then a sharp disagreement took place so that they split from one another (Acts 15:39). To fully understand what had happened, we have to look at the result. Peter understood something when he wrote that we would be scattered into the nations as labourers in the field.

- **Paul and Barnabas did not take the problem personally. They did not allow their disagreement to alienate them as friends and brothers.**
- **They aimed for an effective solution to their disagreement. The solution was **separation**. Going on two separate missions solved the problem and the problem did not continue to fester.**
- **Neither Paul nor Barnabas appears to have acted out of self-interest or self-will.**
- **Neither desired to make their disagreement a biblical issue in which one was “right” and the other “wrong”.**
- **Both seemed to be acting under their own spiritual gifts and calling.**
- **The separation was a cooperative action, not a competitive one.**
- **Time bore witness that both acted in a way that was beneficial to themselves, to Mark, to each other and the Gospel.**
- **It seems Silas was a better partner in ministry to Paul.**

One of Barnabas' strongest gifts was encouragement (Acts 4:36). Barnabas first came alongside Paul when Paul was a newly born believer and none of the apostles would associate with him because they feared him. Barnabas took Paul with him to Antioch, where they ministered for a year (Acts 11:25-26). As of Acts 13:9 and following, the need for Barnabas as Paul's companion seemed to diminish. In chapter 15, Mark needed Barnabas' gift of encouragement much more than Paul did. This strong difference of opinion and approach was the one means by which God could separate the

two “inseparable” friends, brothers, and servants. The separation from Barnabas paved the way for the selection of Silas as a new partner (and others, like Timothy and Luke).

I am convinced that, for the second missionary journey, Silas was a more suitable partner than Barnabas. Silas, like Paul, was a Roman citizen (or at least appeared to be). It would have been difficult for Paul to protest against his unfair treatment as a Roman citizen in Philippi with Barnabas not being a Roman citizen as well (Acts 16:37). Paul and Silas’ reading of the decree of the Jerusalem Council had more impact than it would have had should Paul and Barnabas have read it. God orchestrated a change of team members in a most **unusual but effective** way.

A prominent theme in the Book of Acts is **UNITY AMID DIVERSITY**.

When God reorganises team members for different missions, we should be mature enough to operate in UNITY amid DIVERSITY. We should focus on the goal, which is gathering the end-time harvest.

While still dwelling in the Outer Courts. some of our actions are being tolerated by the Lord but when we have been transformed into the Holy of Holies, those same actions are not acceptable any longer. Let Adonai be the judge!

If we cannot demonstrate the message we bring to the world, the message does not yet belong to us, and we have no authority to continue delivering it. Be an example of the message you preach!

They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves of destructive habits — for a person is a slave of anything that has conquered him. 2 Peter 2:19 GNB

Drop everything else and listen to His voice, my dearest friend, for this is what Elohim is saying to you:

Today, when I speak, don't even think about turning a deaf ear to me like they did when they tested Me at Meribah and Massah, the place where they argued with Me, their Creator... Psalm 95:8 TPT

...for 40 long years I was grieved and disgusted by them. I described them as wicked wanderers... Psalm 95:10 TPT

They were wandering from one land to another and from one Kingdom to another. Psalm 105:13 TPT

Paul boasted about the converts in Thessalonica because they wholeheartedly accepted the message he brought them.

This is why we continually thank God for your lives, because you received our message wholeheartedly. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 TPT

Yes, you are our glorious pride and joy! 1 Thessalonians 2:20 TPT

In contrast, Paul wrote to the Galatians:

I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain. Galatians 4:11 NASB

My question today is also:

“Was my own hard work for you, dear Believer, in vain?”

“HAVE I LABOURED OVER YOU IN VAIN?”

The Lord deals with us in love. He releases mercy upon mercy, grace upon grace, but we often continue stubbornly with anger outbursts, constant conflict and strife, inappropriate language, etc. The time might come when He will give us only one more chance! Do not waste His mercy!

Let us learn a lesson from Israel, which wandered to and fro in the desert for 40 years. Their bodies were scattered in the wilderness because of their rebellion and stubborn spirit. There might come a day in our own lives when Adonai will make a vow.

So for 40 years I was disgusted and grieved by them. I described them as wicked wanderers whose hearts would not follow my ways or keep my words. ¹¹ So, I made a vow in my anger and declared, They will never enter the resting place I've planned for them! Psalm 95:10-11 TPT

Let us never be as hard-hearted and stubborn as they were.

*Stay away from all the foolish arguments of the immature, for these disputes will only generate more conflict. ²⁴ For a true servant of our Lord Jesus will not be argumentative but gentle toward all and skilled in helping others see the truth, having great patience toward the immature. ²⁵ Then with meekness you'll be able to carefully enlighten those who argue with you so they can **see God's gracious gift of repentance and be brought to the truth.** ²⁶ This will cause them to rediscover themselves and escape from the snare of Satan who caught them in his trap so that they would carry out his purposes.* 2 Timothy 2:23-26 TPT

Remember what you were taught from your childhood from the Holy Scrolls which can impart to you wisdom to experience everlasting life through the faith of Jesus, the Anointed One! ¹⁶ God has transmitted his very substance into

every Scripture, for it is God-breathed. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. ¹⁷ Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 TPT

I give you this instruction in love and with boldness. The truth will set you free!

Aspire to lead a calm and peaceful life as you mind your own business and earn your living, just as we've taught you. ¹² By doing this you will live an honorable life, influencing others and commanding respect of even the unbelievers. Then you'll be in need of nothing and not dependent upon others. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 TPT

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are seven requirements for baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- Repentance.
- Baptism in water should precede this baptism.
- Be thirsty for the Spirit.
- Come to Jesus to receive the Spirit.
- Ask Him for it.
- Receive it in faith.
- Yield your tongue to utter your new language.

The Book of Acts is not a historical book but a book of patterns. Read these scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in the Biblical truths of baptism in the Holy Ghost.

- Acts 2:2
- Acts 8:14-17
- Acts 9:17-19
- Acts 10:44-45
- Acts 19:5-6

THE ESSENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Jesus received the Holy Spirit

*John gave further evidence, saying, I have seen the **Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven**, and it dwelt on Him [never to depart]. John 1:32 AMPC*

The Holy Spirit led Jesus

*Then Jesus, full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **led in [by] the [Holy] Spirit**. Luke 4:1 AMPC*

*Then Jesus went back full of and under the **power of the [Holy] Spirit** into Galilee, and the fame of Him spread through the whole region round about.*

¹⁵ And He Himself conducted [a course of] teaching in their synagogues, being recognized and honored and praised by all. Luke 4:14-15 AMPC

Jesus performed many great works after He had received the Holy Spirit

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited with His disciples to the wedding. John 2:1-2 AMPC

*And when the manager **tasted the water just now turned into wine**, not knowing where it came from--though the servants who had drawn the water knew--he called the bridegroom. John 2:9 AMPC*

This was the very first miracle Jesus performed. Many more followed.

*So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was **sick** at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the **point of death**. ⁴⁸ Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see **signs and wonders, ye will not believe**. John 4:46-48 KJV*

*And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. ³² And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his **word was with power**. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an **unclean devil**, and **cried out with a loud voice**, ³⁴ Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. ³⁵ And Jesus **rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him**, and hurt him not. ³⁶ And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with **authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out**. Luke 4:31-36 KJV*

*Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers **diseases** brought them unto him; and he **laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them**. ⁴¹ And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. Luke 4:40-41 KJV*

*And immediately he rose up before them, and **took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.** Luke 5:25 KJV*

He who is mightier will baptise you with the Holy Spirit

*John answered them all by saying, **I baptize you with water;** but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of Whose sandals I am not fit to unfasten. He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** Luke 3:16 AMPC*

- After being born again and baptised in water, we should receive the power of the Holy Spirit!
- God doesn't want us to live for Him in our own strength. He wants to live through us by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit!

*And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost.** John 20:22 KJV*

Jesus commanded His disciples to GO and preach the Gospel and baptise the people

*And He said to them, **Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel)** to every creature [of the whole human race]. ¹⁶ **He who believes** [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is **baptized will be saved** [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he **who does not believe** [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] **will be condemned.** Mark 16:15-16 AMPC*

Jesus gave us Authority

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. ³⁴ *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and **gave authority to his servants**, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.* Mark 13:33 – 34 KJV

*For even though I boast rather freely about our **power and authority**, which the **Lord gave** for your upbuilding and not for demolishing you, yet I shall not be put to shame [for exceeding the truth].* 2 Corinthians 10:8 AMPC

These signs will accompany them

*And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in **My name they will drive out demons**; they will **speak in new languages**;* ¹⁸ *They will **pick up serpents**; and [even] if they **drink anything deadly**, it will **not hurt them**; they will lay their **hands on the sick**, and they will get well.*
Mark 16:17-18 AMPC

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He instructed his disciples to wait on the Holy Spirit

*And while being in their company and eating with them, **He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem** but to **wait** for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. [John 14:16, 26; 15:26.]* ⁵ *For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall **be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit**.* Act 1:4-5 AMPC

*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Comforter** (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever.* John 14:16 AMPC

*But the **Comforter** (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you. John 14:26 AMPC*

The Holy Spirit came upon them!

*And when the day of **Pentecost** (50 days after Jesus' resurrection) had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place. Acts 2:1 AMPC*

*And there appeared to them **tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them.** ⁴ And they were **all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words]. Acts 2:3-4 AMPC*

Jesus departed to Heaven

So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19 ESV [Ps. 110:1]

Philip went to Samaria to preach the Gospel

Eight years later, Philip carried the Gospel to Samaria. With "ONE ACCORD", they gave heed unto the words he spoke! Many were delivered from unclean spirits. This was the work of the power of the Holy Spirit!

Now those who were scattered abroad went about [through the land from place to place] preaching the glad tidings, the Word [the doctrine concerning

the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God]. ⁵ **Philip** *[the deacon, not the apostle] went down to the city of **Samaria** and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to them [the people]; [Acts 6:5.]* ⁶ *And great crowds of people with one accord listened to and heeded what was said by Philip, as they heard him and **watched the miracles and wonders** which he kept performing [from time to time].* ⁷ **For foul spirits came out of many who were possessed by them**, screaming and shouting with a loud voice, and many who were suffering from palsy or were crippled **were restored to health.** ⁸ *And there was great rejoicing in that city.* Act 8:4-8 AMPC

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12 KJV

All were baptised, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

Peter and John went to the Samaritans so they could receive the Holy Spirit

Peter and John heard that these people were baptised. They went to Samaria to lay hands on them so they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. ¹⁵ *Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.* ¹⁶ *(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: **only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)* ¹⁷ **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.** Acts 8:14-17 KJV

This confirms that an experience follows salvation, which is called receiving the Holy Spirit, or being filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit fell on the gentile household of Cornelius while Peter was still preaching to them

Peter brought the Word of God to Cornelius' household ten years after Pentecost. While he was still talking, the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the Gentiles. They, too, spoke in tongues and magnified God.

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy **Spirit fell on** all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed, because the free **gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the Gentiles.** ⁴⁶ For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked.*
Acts 10:44-46 AMPC

After they had received their tongues, Peter commanded them to be baptised in the Name of the Lord.

*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸ And he **commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.* Acts 10:47-48 KJV

Paul laid hands on the Ephesians

Twenty years after Pentecost, Paul went to Ephesus. He asked if they had received the Holy Spirit. They replied they had never heard of the Holy Spirit!

*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ² He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And*

*they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*** Acts 19:1-2 KJV

*'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' he asked them. 'No,' they replied, '**we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**'* Acts 19:2 NLT

*And he said unto them, **Unto what then were ye baptized?** And they said, **Unto John's baptism.*** Acts 19:3 KJV

When Paul explained that the baptism of John was the baptism of repentance, they were all baptised again. This time in the Name of the Lord Jesus!

*Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance,** saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵ When they heard this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.* Acts 19:4-6 KJV

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the upper inland districts and came down to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he asked them, **Did you receive the Holy Spirit** when you believed [on Jesus as the Christ]? And they said, **No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.** ³ And he asked, **Into what [baptism] then were you baptized?** They said, **Into John's baptism.** ⁴ And Paul said, John baptized with **the baptism of repentance**, continually telling the people that they should believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus [having a conviction full of joyful trust that He is Christ, the Messiah, and being obedient to Him]. ⁵ **On hearing this they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus.** ⁶ And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them;*

and they spoke in [foreign, unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesied. Acts 19:1-6 AMPC

The Holy spirit gives a new Language

*And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (**different, foreign**) languages (**tongues**), as **the Spirit** kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].* Acts 2:4 AMPC

- Salvation saves us.
- Baptism with the Holy Spirit empowers us!
- We receive the Language of the Spirit!

Paul spoke in Tongues

Now I wish that you might all speak in [unknown] tongues, but more especially [I want you] to **prophesy** (to be inspired to preach and interpret the divine will and purpose). He who prophesies [who is inspired to preach and teach] is greater (more useful and more important) than he who speaks in [unknown] tongues, unless he should interpret [what he says], so that the church may be edified and receive good [from it]. 1 Corinthians 14:5 KJV

The Power Source

The Holy Spirit is the Power Source. When we reject Him, we will not experience miracles, healings, demons cast out, or speaking in tongues!

- Accept Him by receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Receive God's supernatural power, which works in various wonderful ways. Receive the Source to have His Power!
- **This is essential and not optional!**
- Power is released when speaking in tongues.
- This is how we will receive revelations and tap into the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us to renew our minds.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Since baptism in the Holy Spirit and receiving a new tongue happen simultaneously, some verses and concepts from the previous section will be repeated here.

Speaking in tongues is not a doctrinal foundation, but necessary be discussed. There are **signs** following those who believe and are baptised. One of these signs is **speaking with new tongues!**

He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow those that believe: In my name they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they shall take away serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands upon the sick, and they shall be healed.

Mark 16:16-18 JUB

I want to clear up the confusion in the Body of Christ regarding this subject. Many denominations twist scriptures to prove that speaking in tongues is unnecessary. Some even regard it as coming from the devil. Let us get clarity on this subject.

It is a Language

Speaking in tongues is speaking an earthly language different from any language you are proficient in.

*And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and was confounded, because that every man heard them **speak in his own language**. Acts 2:5-6 KJV*

Myths about speaking in tongues

Although scripture says they “**heard it fluently**”, it is still a new language to the person who receives it and they may not speak it fluently from the first day. It can't be controlled. It is the Holy Spirit who changes your tongue. You simply utter an initial sound like a newborn baby does and it will later on form a proper word. The Holy Spirit gives you the language but you must speak it. Open your mouth and utter a sound! The new language will start flowing automatically.

It is a Language of the Spirit

Speaking in tongues is speaking spiritual mysteries.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 1 Corinthians 14:2 KJV

For IF I pray in an unknown tongue, ***my spirit prayeth***, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14 KJV

The word **IF** implies that it is a **CHOICE!**

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 1 Corinthians 14:15 KJV

When we pray in tongues, we pray to the Spirit. Spirit communicates with spirit. It is not meant for the human mind to understand. It is a purely spiritual prayer and the Father understands the message as delivered by the Holy Ghost. The enemy is confused because it does not understand the language.

Private and secret Languages spoken to God

*For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue **speaks not to men but to God**, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters **secret truths** and **hidden things** [not obvious to the understanding]. 1 Corinthians 14:2 AMPC*

Praying and singing in the Spirit leaves the human understanding unfruitful

*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my **spirit prayeth**, but my **understanding is unfruitful**. ¹⁵ What is it then? I will **pray with the spirit**, and I will **pray with the understanding** also: I will **sing with the spirit**, and I will **sing with the understanding** also. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 KJV*

Building yourself up in Faith

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue **edifieth himself**; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4 KJV*

To edify means to build up. Your soul grows and is being built up because your spirit is already perfect and complete.

- When you pray in tongues, the mind of Christ in your spirit prays.
- **The goal is to facilitate single-mindedness.**
- We desire to download the Word of God into our spirit because the mind of Christ already knows all things.
- Getting God's Word into your soul results in your spirit bearing witness to it.
- As your soulish realm embraces the truth and agrees with it, you reject and resist all other thoughts and belief systems contrary to that of God.
- This truth will rule your life. You become one in mind with Christ.

- Your soul unites with your spirit's way of thinking and you're built up by drawing your spirit's wisdom and knowledge into the physical realm.
- That is when you see God's power manifested!

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Jude 1:20 KJV

*But you, beloved, **build yourselves up on** [the foundation of] your most holy faith [continually progress, **rise like an edifice higher and higher**], pray **in the Holy Spirit**. Jude 1:20 AMP*

Is it possible that you are losing your battles because you either do not wear the full armour or do not pray in the spirit, but from your soulish mind?

Praying in tongues is part of the Believer's Armour

Read Ephesians 6:11-18 and study the armour of God. We need to **ALWAYS PRAY in the SPIRIT!**

*With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] **at all times** [on every occasion and in every season] **in the Spirit**, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people. Ephesians 6:18 AMP*

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:18 KJV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Therefore, my brothers, desire the ability to prophesy, and do not prevent others from speaking in other languages. 1 Corinthians 14:39 ISV

It is a pure Language

When we go back to the beginning of creation, Genesis 11 clearly shows the following:

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Genesis 11:1 KJV

In the very next chapter, God called Abraham. It seems as if the people couldn't yet speak Hebrew in Genesis 11! Could it possibly be because their language was a heavenly language?

THE TOWER OF BABEL

The Lord came down to see the tower that the people of the earth were building. They had one language and nothing they proposed to do would be withheld!

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Genesis 11:1 KJV

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. ⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. ⁶ And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have

*imagined to do. ⁷ Go to, let us go down, and there **confound their language**, that they may not understand one another's speech. Genesis 11:4-7 KJV*

God knew all things would be possible for them since they were united in one language. Likewise, if the Body of Christ were to use this one language, nothing would be withheld from us!

- Why is this language so powerful? Because we do not pray with our minds but in the spirit!
- This means it is not a selfish prayer but a pure prayer from our spirit.
- All other languages originate from this language.

PENTECOST

Fifty days after Jesus had ascended to the heavens, the Holy Spirit filled the people at Pentecost and they spoke in other tongues/languages. They were all with "one accord".

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to **speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4 KJV*

Restoration

God Almighty prophesied in Zephaniah that He would change the speech of the people to a pure speech, and they would serve Him in one accord. He

promised to return a pure language to the people. This would be one language without any profanity.

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. Zephaniah 3:9 KJV

*Then I will give to the peoples [**clear and pure speech from**] **purified lips** [which reflect their **purified hearts**], That all of them may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder (united). Zephaniah 3:9 AMP*

*For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with **one accord**. Zephaniah 3:9 ESV*

The ESV translation used the very same words Peter used in Acts 2.

*I will change the speech of the people to a pure speech and they will **SERVE ME** with '**ONE ACCORD**'!*

The Lord is faithful! When He ascended to heaven, He promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When they were all together with ONE ACCORD, He fulfilled His promise.

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place. Acts 2:1 KJV*

God desires to give us His Holy Spirit

God desires for us to ask and receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:13 KJV

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When Simon, the sorcerer, saw that the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands, he offered the apostles money to also receive this power!

*And when Simon **saw** that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. Acts 8:18-19 KJV*

The Holy Spirit can't be seen with our physical eyes since He is a spirit. So, how was it possible that Simon SAW this **power**?

- All evidence indicates he saw the sign of the Spirit, which manifested by speaking in tongues.

The Samaritans, too, spoke in tongues after Peter and John had laid hands on them.

The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul was responsible for murdering followers of Christ. After his conversion, God sent Ananias to him. (He was then still Saul.)

*And **Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be **filled with the Holy Ghost.**** Acts 9:17 KJV*

Immediately, the Holy Spirit fell on Saul. God then changed his name to Paul.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. Acts 9:18 KJV

Do you want to know why Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament?

Because he spoke in tongues more than the whole congregation together!!

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.

1 Corinthians 14:18 KJV

Peter walked with Jesus for three and a half years, in contrast with Paul, who never walked with Christ. BUT when the Holy Ghost fell on him, he spoke in tongues more than all the members of the congregation together. The Spirit of the Lord revealed so much to Paul that Peter acknowledged it.

*And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are **some things hard to be understood**, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3:15-16 KJV*

This is the power of speaking in tongues. You have to go deep into your spirit and draw revelation out like water from a well! The more you speak in tongues, the more manifestations of other gifts of the Spirit you will receive. Speaking in tongues is the doorway to the rest of the spiritual gifts!

Praying in Tongues releases in us the mind of Christ

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 KJV

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

² *For he that speaketh in an **unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him**; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 1 Corinthians 14:1-2 KJV*

When you pray in the Spirit you speak mysteries

When your spirit prays, your understanding, your soulish, physical, natural mind, is unfruitful.

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14 KJV

MORE REASONS TO SPEAK IN TONGUES

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. Mark 16:17 KJV

All these scriptures are given to us to help us see the blessings coming through appropriating the power of the Holy Spirit daily.

It is the Initial Sign

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4 KJV

- The first reason we should speak in tongues is that it is a supernatural evidence of the Spirit's indwelling. It is the initial evidence or sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- We are filled with the Holy Ghost and speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance.
- This gift was outpoured also on the Gentiles in Cornelius' household in Acts 10:46.
- It is available to you and me as well!

It is for Spiritual Edification

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4 KJV

- Paul encourages us to continue the practice of speaking in other tongues during worship and also in daily prayer as a means of spiritual **edification**!
- Another word for edification is "charge", e.g., charging a battery. This means we edify, charge and build ourselves up like a battery.
- This is not a mental or physical edification but a supernatural spiritual edification.
- It is available to everyone of God's children.
- When we speak in tongues, we "speak divine secrets".
- God has given us a divine, supernatural means of communication with Him.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 1 Corinthians 14:2 KJV

For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding].
1 Corinthians 14:2 AMPC

- Our spirit prays by the Holy Spirit within us.
- God is Spirit, and when we pray in tongues, our spirit is in direct contact with Him!

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14 KJV

*For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my **mind is unproductive** [it bears no fruit and helps nobody].*
1 Corinthians 14:14 AMPC

Believers often debate the relevance of speaking in tongues despite the indisputable clarity on the subject.

It reminds us of the indwelling presence of the Spirit

- Speaking in tongues is not only the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit's infilling but a continual experience lasting for the rest of our lives.
- It assists us in worshipping God.
- It is a flowing stream which should never dry up!
- It will enrich our lives spiritually.

- Continuing to pray and worship in tongues helps us to be ever conscious of His indwelling presence which will greatly affect the way we live.

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.** John 14:16-17 KJV*

I want to share with you a secret that will help you curb your temper or any bad habit! If you pray and worship in tongues every day, it will help you be conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost. If you are constantly aware of Him dwelling inside you, you won't act out your bad habits and short temper any longer!

It is Praying in Line with God's Perfect Will

*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our **infirmities**: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the **Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings** which **cannot be uttered.** ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what **is the mind of the Spirit**, because he **maketh intercession** for the saints according to the **will of God.** Romans 8:26-27 KJV*

- Speaking in tongues keeps selfishness out of prayers.
- A prayer out of one's mind can easily become unscriptural.

Verse 27 above reads as follows in Greek. *"The Holy Ghost maketh intercession for us in groanings that can't be uttered in articulate speech."*

- Articulate speech means our regular kind of speech.
- The Holy Spirit within you gives utterance and you speak out loud the words coming from your spirit.
- By this method, the Spirit helps you to pray according to the will of God.
- These groanings come from inside of us and escape our lips.
 - The Holy Spirit will not do our praying for us. He dwells in us as a Helper and an Intercessor.
 - He isn't responsible for our prayer lives. He simply helps us pray!
 - Praying in tongues is a Spirit-directed prayer.
 - It eliminates the possibility of selfishness in our prayers.

If God's people insist on having things their way, He will often permit it even if it is not God's perfect will. He permitted Israel to have a king because they insisted, but it was not His will.

It stimulates Faith

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Jude 1:20 KJV

- Praying in tongues helps us to trust God.
- If the Holy Spirit supernaturally directs the words we speak, then faith must be exercised to speak in tongues.
- Speaking in tongues builds our faith and we receive healing or breakthroughs beyond imagination.
- Receiving the Holy Spirit releases the utterance of tongues which again helps us to trust God more.

It is a Means of Keeping us Free from Worldly Contamination

But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. 1 Corinthians 14:28 KJV

- It can keep us free from the contamination of the ungodly world around us.
- The scripture above indicates we can speak in tongues to ourselves.
- If we can speak both to ourselves and to God during a church service, then we can also do it at work or anywhere else. We can quietly speak to God even while others are engaged in senseless conversations.

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 1 Corinthians 14:27 KJV

It enables us to Pray for the Unknown

The Holy Spirit knows everything and He can pray through us for things our natural minds know nothing about. When praying in the spirit, we release supernatural power for miracles to happen! A lady once said that she saw an African man in a vision. He was sick and then died. Then she saw how he was raised from the dead and came out of the hut, rejoicing! She prayed earnestly for him in tongues for an hour. Two years later, she miraculously met the man she saw in the vision and he confirmed the accuracy of her vision as he had indeed risen from the dead as a result of her willingness to pray for him in tongues.

Kenneth Copeland tells a similar story of a vision he had one night of his brother dying in hospital. He prayed in tongues for an hour and afterwards also sang and praised in tongues. In the vision, God showed him that his brother was restored. Three months later, his brother, who lived in a different state, visited Kenneth and in a conversation, the vision was confirmed. For forty minutes the doctor believed he had died but then he opened his eyes!

It gives us Spiritual Refreshment

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.
Isaiah 28:11-12 KJV

What is the “rest” and “refreshing” that this scripture speaks about? It means you can be refreshed and revitalised daily by speaking in tongues, instead of going on holiday. Amid turmoil, perplexity, and anxiety, you can receive this “**rest**” and “**refreshment**”!

It is for Giving Thanks

*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. ¹⁶ Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? ¹⁷ For thou **verily givest thanks well**, but the other is not edified. 1 Corinthians 14:15-17 KJV*

"He that occupies the room of the unlearned" refers to those who are unlearned in spiritual things! We should know when to speak in tongues and when to speak with understanding. Saying grace before a meal should understandably be done with understanding but we can also pray and give thanks to God for His goodness by praying in tongues. In the presence of unlearned people, Paul says to pray with understanding so they can be edified by what you say.

It brings the Tongue under Subjection

Yielding the tongue to the Holy Spirit is a giant step toward fully yielding the complete body and will to God.

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:8 KJV

Conclusion: The Public Side of Speaking in Tongues

We have dealt primarily with tongues in the individual believer's private life. There is also a public side to speaking in tongues.

First, when people receive the Holy Ghost publicly, they speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. Second, the church is edified by speaking with other tongues in public assembly, with interpretation. Paul plainly states that prophesying means speaking unto men "*edification, and exhortation and comfort*" (1 Corinthians 14:3). Speaking in tongues, accompanied by interpretation, is equivalent to prophecy.

*I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, **except he interprets**, that the church may receive edifying.* 1 Corinthians 14:5 KJV

If the utterance in tongues is interpreted so the church can understand what is said, then the one prophesying is not greater!

To prophesy is not the same as to preach. A prophecy normally comes as an unprepared inspiration from the Spirit, whilst preaching has to be prepared in advance by studying.

- *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God"* (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).
- We have to study to know the Scriptures and interpret the Word.
- You don't have to study to speak with tongues or interpret tongues. These come by the inspiration of the Spirit.
- A prophecy can be spoken while preaching, when the Spirit inspires a word that was not prepared beforehand.
- Tongues, followed by interpretation, edify the church. It can also convince the unbeliever of the reality of the presence of God and result in his turning to God and being saved.
- *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues"* (Mark 16:17) can be in private or in public.
- *"They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"* (Mark 16:18b). This can happen in private or in public.
- It is acceptable to pray in tongues for as long as you want to, for believers to be edified.

PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER IN FAITH.

"Holy Spirit, I need You! In Jesus Name, I invite You into my life! I receive the Holy Ghost right now. Thank you, Lord, for pouring out Your Holy Spirit onto and into me. Thank you, Jesus, for this precious gift. I am asking You now to give me my own tongue so I can speak to You from spirit to spirit. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Hallelujah!"

Believe that you have received the Holy Spirit. Open your mouth and start uttering sounds from your spirit, even if it is only one word! You will speak more fluently as you repeat these words over and over!

The first three aspects of the Foundation of Christ have now been discussed. Study these principles and apply them to your life as soon as possible. It is obvious that we are living in the end times and we will not be able to overcome unless we have a firm, indestructible foundation! God is moving forward and is calling us to keep up with Him!

There is not much time left, Saints!

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Laying down the Foundation

The Apostle Paul writes that he has much to say, although it is difficult to explain, because we have become too dull and sluggish to understand. For by now we should already have been "professors instructing" others. We are supposed to be rabbi's ourselves, but instead, we need to be taught the basics of God's prophetic oracles! We are like children still needing milk and not yet ready to digest solid food (Hebrews 5:11-14).

On the 13th of April 2021, a word of God came to me.

"My servant, I will make you My signet ring; for I have chosen you (Haggai 2:23) to lay the foundation of this house; your hands shall also complete it" (Zechariah 4:6-7). The message was clear! We have to lay down the foundation to restore His temple. The next chapter of Hebrews continues that the foundation to be laid down, is the Doctrine of Christ and it consists of the following:

¹ Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this will we do, if God permit (Hebrews 6:1-3 KJV).

Any foundation must first be inspected and approved, before the structure of the building can be erected. If the Building Inspector is satisfied, he approves of it using a stamp of authority. Similarly, Adonai first needs to **permit** (approve) the restoration of the foundation by using this signet ring as His stamp of approval!

Paul gave Timothy the reason we need a solid foundation:

Then you will be God's servant-fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment. 2 Timothy 3:17 TPT

We have confidence that this "**temple**" will stand and last when the storm comes, because of Jesus' promise that "He who comes to me and hears my words and do it (acts on them) is like a person building a house, who dug a deep hole to lay the foundation on rock. When the storm comes, and pushed against that house but couldn't shake it, because it had been founded on the rock" (Luke 6:46-48).

The opposite is therefore also true. He who does not **HEAR** and does not **DO** and does not **dig deep**, when the storm comes, his house will surely collapse.



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