**Renew Your Vow January 08, 2023**

Isaiah 42: 1—9 Genesis 1:1-5 Matthew 3: 13—17

Water plays a significant role in the biblical story of God’s people. God’s Spirit moved over and acted upon the water in the creation. Everything came up from the water. Even the earth was underwater. Genesis 1:1-10 from the water, the physical life began, so it is from the water that every human life comes into existence. When the baby is in the mother's womb, he is protected by the water and flows out as a new child until he enters the world. Water is the source of life.

When God declared everything to come up from the water, it symbolized all creatures' purification through the water. In the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-8. Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he’s born of water and the Spirit." Baptism is the liberation from sin. Paul described baptism as a symbol of dying to sin and rising with Christ. Through the water, God killed the Egyptians and delivered the Jewish people. From the water comes death, and also comes new life. Romans 6:1-11.

Before Jesus started the ministry, he went to be baptized by John the Baptist. This fulfilled all righteousness, and for God to confirm his partnership with Jesus as Son. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came out of the water. Suddenly, heaven was opened, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him, I am well pleased." Jesus received two baptisms at the same time. A dove was the sign of confirmation of the Holy Spirit in Jesus. Then God confirms his relationship with Jesus.

Like us, you receive two confirmations every time you are baptized or renew your vow of baptism. First: clean your sin, and second: the holy Spirit comes upon you. when we take baptism through the water, God demonstrates his partnership with us by sending the Holy Spirit to us; when we are baptized and converted to God. “There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Luke 15:7

When you are baptized into Christ, you are insecure. Through the water, baptism means receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and confessing your sin to God to obtain forgiveness. Valid baptism consisted of confessing your sin and be repented for all wrong acts you had committed. Baptism is necessary because we are clothed with Christ in our bodies. Galatians 3:27 “for all you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." When you die with Christ through water by immersion, you resurrect with him; then Christ clothed you with his glory. Galatians 2:19-20 will be fulfilled. “For through the law, I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”. This is the guarantee of faithful Christians who depend on Jesus.

While Paul was in Ephesus, he found some disciples gathered to worship. He asks them about the Holy Spirit’s baptism. They answered that John baptized us through the water, the baptism of repentance. Still, we never heard about baptism through the Holy Spirit. Then Paul prayed for them by laying a hand on them. When Paul placed his hand on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in a tongue and prophesied. Baptism through the Holy Spirit comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

After being baptized through the Water “Repentance,” you have clothed Jesus Christ, and you live with him. And the Holy Spirit will lead your life to practice these gifts. Amen.

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