

The Doctrine of Baptisms

We have been discussing the “elementary teachings” of Christ and “going on to maturity”. (Heb. 6:1-3). The reason that most have not gone on to maturity is because they have never been taught the elementary doctrines and without them, we cannot go on to maturity as Christians. Today, I would like to introduce the third of these elementary doctrines, the “doctrine of baptisms”.

Most of us have only known baptism in water, and since the Charismatic renewal, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We will also discuss three other baptisms mentioned in Scriptures. Baptism is “immersion” of one into another, with resulting change by the thing in which it is immersed. It is death and resurrection, it is not just a ritual, but it is meant to result in change.

What are these baptisms and what changes do they bring about in our life? What is the significance of each of these baptisms in our life as a believer?

First, the baptism of repentance signifies our repentance from living our own life to acknowledging Him as Lord – when we were born again and received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, confirming that we are the sons of God.

Second, baptism in water is the testimony that we have died and are no longer under the rule of sin and have been raised to “newness of life” as a “new creation”, no longer “sinners”, but “saints”, the family of God.

Third, the baptism of Jesus, which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is an endowment of His power to be His witness, no longer living our own life, but, allowing Him to live His life in us. It is also called the “baptism into the cloud”, where we are living our life in the current and relevant work of God, being led by the Holy Spirit, doing what we see the Lord doing and saying what we hear Him say.

Fourth, the baptism of fire and of suffering, in which the Holy Spirit brings our life into “fiery trials” through which our soul is “being saved”. Through suffering, our soul is learning to give up its own dominance and submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit through our own spirit.

Fifth, the baptism by the Holy Spirit, into the body of Christ, whereby the Holy Spirit places us into the body “as it pleases the Father”, enabling us to represent Him as He has ordained and designed us, revealing the “one new man” raised up to glorify Him.

The “doctrine of baptisms” reveals to us the following – we have turned to Him and have become the sons of God. Being placed in the body of Christ to fully express and experience Him, we are living a new life empowered by His Spirit. Being led by His Spirit and seeking His will only, the trials of our life are bringing our soul into submission to our spirit, whereby, we are better enabled to properly represent Him.