Some through the waters, some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the blood; Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song, in the night season, and all the day long.
George Young
1903

Prayer Study #434
THE DIFFERENT BAPTISMS IN SCRIPTURE
(This topic is covered more extensively in Prayer Study #285)
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Scripture sometimes seems to contradict itself when we lightly read over passage of the Bible without letting the Holy Spirit teach us and without regarding the context nor the idioms of the Jewish culture. An example of a seemingly contradiction, which can easily be explain, are the passages Hebrews 6:1-2 (*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment)* and Ephesians 4:4-6 (*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.)* One scripture talks of the doctrine of baptisms, while the other says there is one baptism.

The baptism in Ephesians 4 is a special baptism that supernaturally happens when someone accepts Jesus in his heart. This is the way that the Greek scholar Rick Renner puts it: "*The Greek word baptidzo originally meant to dip and to dye. A person who comes to Jesus Christ can be likened to an old garment that needs to be dipped into a vat of dye so its color can be changed. However, the person isn't dipped into a vat of colored dye, but into the precious blood of the Lamb!"* This baptism is the baptism into the Body of Christ. There is only one baptism of salvation because *there is only one way* to being born again and that is through accepting Jesus and letting the Holy Spirit dip or baptize you in the blood of Jesus.

The Baptism into the Body of Christ

This baptism in done by the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-11 tells us: "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment because the prince of this world is judged." In other words, He, the Holy Spirit, will convict men of sin, convict men that Jesus is the righteousness of

God, and convict men that the power of Satan has been broken. All of this is possible, only because of the Blood of Jesus.

1. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE DEVIL.**
   Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2).
2. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.**
   In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace… (Ephesians 1:7)
3. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS, GOD'S SON, CONTINUALLY CLEANSES ME FROM ALL SIN.**
   But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin (1st John 1:7).
   But if we [really] *are living and walking in the Light, as He* [Himself] *is in the Light, we have* [true, unbroken] *fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt* [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. AMP
4. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS, JUST AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED.**
   Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we should be saved from wrath through him (Romans 5:9).
5. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED-MADE HOLY OR SET APART TO GOD AND SEPARATED FROM THE DEVIL.**
   Wherefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Hebrews 13:12).
6. **MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-REDEEMED, CLEANSED, SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THEREFORE, SATAN HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS!**
   What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1st Corinthians 6:19-20).

All Christians must be baptized into the blood of Jesus by the Holy Spirit who draws us to Jesus in order to even be correctly called *Christians.* That is the fundamental

law of Christianity. That is the baptism that is referred to in Ephesians 4. Without the Baptism into the Body of Christ, all other baptisms are impossible.

OTHER BAPTISMS IN THE WORD

The Baptism of John

John was one of the most unique men in the Bible. While there is no miracle ascribed to John the Baptist, Jesus said of him in Matthew 11:11, ***"…among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist…"*** and in Matthew 11:9, ***"But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet."*** Jesus also referred to John the Baptist as an Elijah. Thus, he was a forerunner preparing the way for the ministry of Jesus to come. We will see in our day, I believe, forerunner ministries that have the call on God on them again to prepare the way for Jesus. This time it will be the Second Coming when Jesus comes back to run and reign. This forerunner ministry will prepare the Bride of Christ to be *a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:5:27). John made two demands before a person was baptized: repentance and public confession of sins. He refused to baptize Pharisees and Sadduces because they showed no real desire for a changed life.

Derek Prince speaks of John's baptism, "Those who sincerely met John's conditions enjoyed a real experience of repentance and forgiveness which was expressed in lives changed for the better. [However] those whom John baptized did not receive abiding, inner peace, and victory over sin, made possible only through the full gospel message of Jesus Christ; but their hearts were prepared to receive and respond to the gospel message when it should be proclaimed.

I do not want to downplay John's baptism at all, but it was no longer necessary or even effective after Jesus paid the price for sin with His blood. Then there was no remission of sin except through the blood of Jesus.

John's baptism emphasized repentance, which is not only turning from sin but also turning to faith in God. Interestingly, *repent* was not only the first word of John's ministry (Matthew 3:2) but also of Jesus' ministry (Matthew 4:17). Repentance remains one of the six foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. (The others, as seen in Hebrews 6:1-2, are faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.)

Christian Water Baptism

Do you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness

of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His (Romans 6:3-5).

We, in First Love Ministries, believe in *credobaptism.* In other words, we only water baptize people who confess publically that they were believers in Jesus. We do not baptize babies but do dedicate babies when parents pledge to grow them up in the Christian faith. We go through water baptism for three main reasons. First, we want to publically say that we are believers and love Jesus. Secondly, we want to remind ourselves that we have been spiritually dead in trespasses and sins but now are spiritually alive only because of the Holy Spirit leading us to Jesus. Finally, we go through water baptism to follow the Lord's own example and to be obedient to scripture. Fellow believers are eligible to baptize other believers. Water baptism is a symbolic act of dying to self, being buried, and then rising again out of the water alive in Jesus. Colossians 2:13 tell us: *And you were buried with Him in baptism in which you were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

I have said many times that I personally believe that Christians who have not had this experience will not make it in the days ahead without falling as a Christian in this wicked world. If you have not had this experience, you are not less of a Christian nor are those who have had the experience more saved than one who has not. But the Holy Spirit gives you the *dunamis* power to overcome *and* to be a witness for Jesus. Since I have taught a length course on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I won't labor the point here except to say that Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and this baptism is available to everyone who really wants it. It does not make you more mature, but it will change your life. I would encourage you to pray every day for this baptism and for more of the Holy Spirit in your life. John recognized this baptism when he said in Mark 1:8, *I indeed baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

This is what David Wilkerson said about this Baptism experience: *"When you emerge from seeking God, full of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to stand with boldness before fellow workers, family, anyone, and your witness will provoke one of two reactions. They will either cry out, 'What must I do to be save?' or they will want to kill you! You will speak a word that cuts to the heart. The difference is found in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Baptism of Fire

We have previously discussed this baptism in a previous handout. I will repeat the information here. There are three theological opinions about the baptism of fire. 1) Some believe Christians are automatically "baptized with fire" at the same time they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. They cite the "tongues of fire" that came down unto the disciples at Pentecost in Acts 2. The problem with this view is that there is never any

mention, in scripture, of fire when other people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. 2) Others believe that the context of the scripture indicates that Christians will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but non-believers will be "baptized with fire" (i.e. the "Lake of Fire" in Revelation 20:15) or sent to Hell. The problem with this view is the "Lake of Fire" is never referred to as a "baptism of fire." Most theologians, however ascribed to the 2nd view because it does make sense in the context of Matthew 3:4-12. 3) The third view is that the baptism of fire comes after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I believe the third view is correct. I see the baptism of fire as both setting spirit-baptized believers on fire to do the ministry and including a refinement, involving trials and tribulations, that will purify these believers. I believe that these believers are His Third Day Church of Hosea 6:1-3-*Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come upon us, as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

The Baptism in His Sufferings

This is not a popular baptism in our American church which is more interested overall in worshiping in a comfortable building and being taught a Gospel that requires no sacrifice. The Baptism in His Sufferings is seldom talked about, and too often those of us who do talk of it don't really understand the cost of this baptism.

James and John, prompted by their mother, come to Jesus and ask to be put in the primary positions in His Kingdom: *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them,* ***"What do you want Me to do for you?"*** *They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them,* ***"You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*** *They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them,* ***"You will indeed drink the cup that I drink and with the baptism I am baptized with, you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared"*** Mark 10:35-40.

Paul calls this baptism, *the fellowship of His sufferings.* Philippians 3:8-11 reads: *Yet indeed I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which if from God by faith, that I may know Him and the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means I may attain to the resurrection of the dead.*

Jesus said of this baptism in Luke 12:50, ***But I have a baptism to be baptized with and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!"***

This is not a baptism of fire where we go through trials and tribulations, but it is a baptism that identifies us with the crucified Christ. The emphasis is not on us and our sufferings; it is on Jesus and what He did for us. Among the characteristics of this baptism are the following:

1. **Men will hate you because of the Christian message that you preach:**
   Luke 6:22-23: ***Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.***
2. **You will be persecuted:**
   John 15:20: ***Remember the word that I said to you, "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*** 2nd Timothy 3:12: *Yes, and all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*
3. **You will experience shame:**
   Acts 5:41: *So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*
4. **You will suffer:**
   Philippians 1:29: *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.* 1st Peter 4:12-19: *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear? Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

5. **You may be called upon to bear in your body the marks of Jesus Christ:** Galatians 6:17: *From now on let no one trouble you, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.* Paul's physical body permanently showed the scars, the marks, the wounds, and disfigurement of the beatings that he had endured for the Lord Jesus. The word *marks* in this passage is the Greek word *stigmata, which means scars.* Paul is saying, "If you want to know if I am a follower of Jesus, look at my scars." In 2nd Corinthians 11:24-28 he tells us where these scars came from: *From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.*

Barclay explains these marks: *Often a master branded his slaves with a mark that showed them to be his. Most probably, what Paul means is that the scars of the things he had suffered for Christ are the brands which show him to be Christ's slave. In the end, it is not his apostolic authority that he uses as a basis of appeal; it is the wounds he sustained for Christ's sake.* Are you willing to bear in your body the marks of Jesus Christ?

We may well have to answer that question one day either on the mission field or even in a reprobate nation that no longer respects the things of God.

<u>Other Scriptures Dealing with the Baptism into His Sufferings</u>

Hebrews 2:9-10: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Romans 8:16-18: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

1st Peter 4:1-2: *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

In Summary

1. John's Baptism. Cleansing from Sin. By John.
2. Baptism in His Body. Salvation. By Holy Spirit.
3. Baptism in Water. Dying to Self. By any genuine believer.
4. Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Power. By Jesus.
5. Baptism with Fire. Purification. By Jesus
6. Baptism into His Sufferings. Perfection or Maturity in Righteousness. By Holy Spirit (?).