

The Sacrament of Baptism

1

AN OVERVIEW

(John 3)

2

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(John 3)

3

⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things

Baptism is Essential & Crucial

4

- Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)
- Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)
- “He who is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

When was it Instituted?

5

- The Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism by being baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, when the Holy Spirit came upon Him, as a dove, And anointed Him.
- Christ assured it after the resurrection when He said to His disciples: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew: 28:19),

Baptism Grants New Birth

6

- The Sacrament of Baptism has the first rank among the other Holy Sacraments, as it is the door by which the believer enters the church and has the right to partake in the rest of the Sacraments.
- Baptism is a Holy Sacrament by which we are born again by being immersed in water three times in the name of the Holy Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- “Was incarnate and became man and taught the ways of salvation. He granted us the birth from on high through water and Spirit” (Liturgy of St. Basil)

Baptism, Church, Heaven

7

- Natural birth is involuntary on the part of the person; where the new birth is a matter of choice and knowledge and is associated with repentance.
- Existing of the devils kingdom and freedom from his bondage (Renouncing Satan).
- Entering the church with all her rituals and ways of salvation
- Entering into holy & heavenly life
- No Salvation outside the church

Forgiveness of Past Sins

8

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:37-41)

Baptism is a Reborn

- The Flood (Gen. 8)

“who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” (1 Pet. 3:20)

- The Crossing of the Red Sea (Ex. 14)

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, .” (1 Cor. 10:1)

- Restoration
- Renewal
- Glorification
- Regeneration
- Sanctification
- Illumination/Enlightenment
- By baptism you don't receive Christians but christ
“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ
have put on Christ” (Gal 3 : 27)

Baptism By Immersion

- **Baptism is death with Christ and resurrection with Him**
“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12).
- “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, ..” (Mat. 3:16)
- “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away,” (Acts 8)

Rituals of Baptism

12

The ritual of the sacrament of Baptism is divided into four major parts:

1. Liturgy of Baptism
2. Women's Absolution
3. Renouncing Satan & Holy Baptism
4. The Holy Chrism

Liturgy of Baptism

- Sanctification of the water is accomplished through the prayer of the gathered church (priest, deacons, congregation), the reading of the Word of God, the signs of the Cross, and finally by the pouring of the Myron into the Baptismal water so that the Holy Spirit dwells on the water grants the baptized person a new nature.
- St. Cyril the Great resembled the Baptismal water at the moment of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to a bowl with water which is placed on the fire so it gains heat. Likewise, the Baptismal water gains the power and reflection of the Holy Spirit, to be born of God and the Church as spiritual children.

Renouncing Satan

14

- Facing the West!
- *“I renounce you Satan and all your profane deeds, and all your wicked angels and all your evil demons, all your power, and all your abominable service, all your evil traps and your army and your dominion and the rest of your deceit. I renounce you, I renounce you, I renounce you”.*

Confessing Christ & Reciting The Orthodox Creed

- Facing the East!
- *I confess you O Christ my God and all Your redeeming laws and enlivening service and Your life giving works. I believe in one God the Father the Pantocrator, and His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Life-Giving Holy Spirit, and the resurrection of the body, and the One, Holy, catholic and Apostolic Church, Amen”.*
- He who faces the East proves that he seeks the first heavenly life, as the first paradise was planted by God, a garden eastward in Eden (Genesis 2:8).
- Christ is the light that shone on us. “But to you who fear My Name the Son of righteousness shall arise” (Malachi 4:2).

Baptism Oils

16

The oils used in the sacrament of baptism are 3:

1. The oil of catechumens (Apocalypse, simple oil)

Pure olive oil. It helps the Baptized to accept the Word of God and understand the Gospel, and simply accept faith.

2. The Hagielaion (oil of gladness)

Called an ointment of joy, which helps the soul to rejoice in the Word of God, the acceptance of faith and entry to the Church Community.

3. The Chrism (Holy Myron)

The Seal of the Holy Spirit. After baptism, on the body; the senses, joints and heart. All the body's organs are sanctified, the body becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit.

- Administer priest and the baptized person and/or Godparent must be fasting for the sacrament.
- The Sacrament of Baptism is granted only once to the believer in their entire life and cannot be repeated.