

Life Group Notes
Sunday 13 May 2018

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Series: Followers of Jesus

Title: Followers Who Are Baptised

In the second in our series on being followers of Christ, we looked at baptism, both in the water and with the Spirit.

The Baptism – the baptism John was offering was significant. If a gentile had wanted to enter the nation of Israel, they had to take a ceremonial bath from head to toe. Completely washing them clean of the gentile impurities. It displayed that they repented of sin and were coming to God for forgiveness. John speaks to Jews and says you need to be baptised, you need to go through the gentile bath, to step out of what you know now into the Kingdom of God. This was an offence, but Jews were doing this. Jesus comes along, and he too takes this bath, identifying with those who are not in the Kingdom, in need of salvation – even though he was sinless and in no need of forgiveness. Jesus sets an example for us to follow and commands his followers to believe and be baptised.

Next Step: BAPTISING ON JULY 22ND AT THAMES VALLEY PARK – contact Scott

The Dove – the dove descended on Jesus like a dove, seen by Jesus and John and most likely all who were there. Jesus never sinned, believed in his Father, followed the scriptures perfectly, but at his baptism the dove descends on him, the Holy Spirit. From that point on he heals, teaches, loves, raises people from the dead cast out demons, all by the power of the Holy Spirit. We see the same in the disciples – they believe in Jesus they have followed him, they have given everything up to follow Him. But at Pentecost something incredible happens. A sound like a rushing wind and something that looked like tongues of fire came upon each one. They were baptised in the Spirit as Jesus had promised and went from being scared and hiding to courageous and public. This is for us too. To be baptised and filled again to receive power to live the life he has called us to, to be his followers, his witnesses.

Next Step: BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – MONDAY 4TH JUNE 7:45PM, THURS 7TH JUNE 10AM

The Joy – We read in the passage that the Father had great joy in his Son. In his obedience, in his fulfilling of all righteousness, joy in his boy! Likewise, the Father has great joy in us when we are baptised, as we step out for him and declare to the world we are his. We too can experience the joy of knowing we are now in a new family adopted accepted chosen significant secure in him because of what Christ has done. As we are baptised in the Spirit, an expression of the fruit of that is joy. A joy in doing as he commands as we partner with the Spirit. A joy which takes us through suffering a joy that carries us through disappointment and heartache. Joy that is so foundational, the joy of knowing we are not only in the family but we are equipped to do as he has commanded.

Suggested questions:

- 1) What did you hear a fresh on Sunday that stuck with you?
- 2) Tell each other your baptism stories, how did you feel?
- 3) Tell each other your 'dove' stories, what changed in you?
- 4) Pray for each other to be filled or baptised in the Spirit