

BASICS

Aug. 30, 2020 | Basics (Part 3): Grounded in Faith, Buried with Christ | Dana Williams

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever been so distressed that you felt the need to cry out for help?

READ: Acts 2:37-41

FOCUS: Understanding the collision between our sin and God's righteousness provokes us to turn away from our ways and toward God's ways (repentance) and publicly turn away from sin (buried with Christ in baptism).

OBSERVE: Immersion in the waters of baptism signifies being buried with Christ (similar to His burial between His death and resurrection), leaving the old behind and emerging from the water identifying as a new creation. This act is both symbolic of our faith in Christ's death and resurrection as well as a supernatural realignment.

Awareness of the need for repentance

- In Acts 2:37, we learn that people who were listening to Peter preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit, were "acutely emotionally distressed" and pierced to the heart. They cried out "what should we do?" They had a painful revelation of how their lives did not align with God's kingdom.
- Peter instructed them to change their thoughts, attitudes and behaviors (repentance). This change is hard, and we might refuse to change until the pain of not changing outweighs our fear of changing.
- Baptism is part of the process of changing. We allow our "old man" or our old thoughts, attitude, behavior and sin nature to be buried with Christ—as when Christ died and was buried with the sin of the world on Him. We emerge from the water with a supernaturally transformed "new man."

Transformed for what purpose?

- In Acts 2:39-41, we learn that repentance and baptism release forgiveness to us. We can also be filled with the Holy Spirit. That process is a promise, calling us close to God because we were far away.
- Repentance and baptism are evidence of a life being grounded in the faith. We believe that in Christ's life, death and resurrection we see God's kingdom, which can also manifest in our own lives.

How do we respond?

- Become aware of our sin and need for repentance as a foundation for grounding our faith in Christ
- Accept the need to be water baptized as a public demonstration of our desire to change
- Be baptized and allow ourselves to be buried with Christ and supernaturally renewed

We can become a conduit for God's kingdom in the earth, proclaiming Jesus as Lord and calling others to repent and be baptized, along with all the others who have been baptized into the name of Jesus.

REFLECT:

- Are you aware of the need for repentance?
- Are you willing to make a public declaration of your desire to leave the "old man" behind and be baptized in the name of Jesus, emerging as a transformed new person?

TAKE ACTION:

- Attend Kings Park Growth Track and ask to be baptized if you have not yet done so.

PRAY:

Jesus, thank You for willingly taking on my sin, dying by crucifixion and being buried with my sin. I daily repent of my sin and ask You to bury my sinful "old man" and raise me to be a transformed new creation in the same way that You were resurrected. I will follow Your commands to be baptized and publicly turn away from my sinful old attitudes and behaviors and to trust in Your resurrection to empower me to live in a new way. Amen.

