

Foundations 6b Washing of Water by the Word

“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 this we will do if God permits”. **Hebrews 6:1-3**

The Greek word translated as baptisms, “*baptismos*”, in the above Scripture is also translated in other Scriptures as “washings” (Mark 7:4, Mark 7:8, Hebrews 9:10). Thus the foundational doctrine of baptisms, or washings, includes the doctrine of the washing of the believer with the water of the Word of God.

This is a foundation that our lives must be built upon if we are going to grow to maturity in Christ.

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” **Ephesians 5:25b-27**

The reason that Christ gave Himself on the cross for the church is so that He might wash her with the water of the Word. Receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior is only the first step in our salvation. We must continue to follow Him as our Lord by giving ourselves to His Word; by making undistracted time alone with His Word a priority. To not give ourselves over to the Word of God is to deny the Lord the reason for which He redeemed us. He wants to transform us, making us glorious in holiness without spot or wrinkle. The means to accomplish this is by the “washing of water” by the Word of God.

The Word of God is alive and powerful

“For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12**

Jesus said: “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”
John 6:63

The living Word of God works effectively in us

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” **1 Thes. 2:13**

The Word has power to transform

James 1:21b “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls”

Jesus prayed to His Father “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

When we are born again, we are “saved” from the penalty of sin. We are no longer headed toward hell. However, our soul (mind, will and emotions) needs to be saved (transformed into Christ’s image). The saving (transformation) of our soul occurs when we receive the Word of God in our heart; allowing it to renew our mind.

By keeping the Word of God in our hearts, God cleanses us and keeps us from falling

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” **Psalms 119:9,11**

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” **Jude 24-25**

Reading and meditating on the Word of God causes the light of His Spirit to fill us.

“The entrance of Your words gives light” **Psalm 119:130a**

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” **1 John 1:5b**

We can become filled with the Holy Spirit by prayerfully reading and meditating on the Word of God.

The first and great commandment is to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. “ **Matthew 22:37-38**

The primary way that we demonstrate our love for God is by keeping His Word

“He who has My commandments (Word) and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” **John 14:21,23**

By reading the Bible regularly our souls will be “washed with water by the Word” of God.

Reading the Word of God, meditating on Scripture verses and praying the Word are some of the ways that we can allow the Word to “wash us” so that we may be transformed. The transforming power is in the Word!

We must continue in His Word

John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Disciples of Jesus are disciplined to follow in His steps

To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a “disciplined” one, who seeks to follow in His steps. That means, like Jesus, we make communion with God and His Word our highest priority.

Mark 1:35 “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

Making time to read and ponder the Word of God our first and highest priority (in a quiet place) ensures that we can do so before the “demands” of a busy day steal our time. Many well meaning believers remain immature, defeated or are stunted in growth because time alone with God and His Word is not a priority. The cares and busy-ness of life steal their time and crowd out the Word of God.

The Lord Jesus studied the Word, knew the Word and often quoted the Scriptures (Mark 4:4, 7, 10). He expects us to also read, know and speak the Word of God (Matthew 19:3-6).

We are to live by the Word of God

Matthew 4:4 “But He (Jesus) answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

Meditating on the Word of God results in fruitfulness

To meditate is to “think upon, reflect and/or ponder”. It is to hold a word in our heart, allowing it to sink in and change our thinking.

Psalm 1

Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight *is* in the law (Word) of the Lord, and in His law (Word) he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

4 The ungodly *are* not so, but *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Meditation on the Word will cause your progress to be seen

1 Timothy 4:15 “Meditate on these things (the Word); give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.”

The Word of God instructs and thoroughly equips us

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man (or woman) of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Make a decision now, with prayer (trusting God for His help) to make time alone with God and His Word your highest priority. He will help you. By keeping His Word we can fulfill the first and great commandment to love God with all of our heart.