

The Epiphany – Part 2

Galatians 3:26-27 (NCV)

You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This means that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:5-6 (GNT)

5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 There is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all.

Baptism into the Body of Christ includes being born again – the Holy Spirit removes your old sinful nature of spiritual death and replaces it with a new righteous nature of eternal life.

Mark 1:1-11 (NKJV)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Water baptism is a symbol of identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:4-5 (NKJV)

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come UPON you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

In the Bible, only adults who have repented and believed are baptized.

Your new identity in Christ includes God's acceptance and God's approval.

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God IN HIM.

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NKJV)

4 Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

God's acceptance and approval equate to God's unconditional love for you.

Faith righteousness means you're accepted and approved by God because of Jesus.

Your new identity – being the righteousness of God in Christ – means God loves you unconditionally.