

The Abundant Life Bible Study

Week Two

Day 1 Water baptism

Acts 2:38

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Copy this verse:

Another step to become a believer in Christ Jesus is to be baptized. This is a water baptism. Baptism doesn't save you alone. You first have to repent, believe and then be baptized. It is an outward sign to others. Talk with your pastor about being baptized.

Jesus is our example of being baptized. When he was baptized by John the Baptist, the spirit came down from heaven "like" a dove. That is when the Holy Spirit ascended down from the heavens. This you can read in Luke 3:21. It rested on Jesus and a voice came down from heaven and said: "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

If it was good enough for Jesus, it is good enough for us 😊 This is an important step in your walk of faith, showing others that you are making that decision to follow after Christ.

In 1 Peter 3:21 it states, Baptism which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." By doing the act of baptism, it shows to God that you are serious about making this decision to him. Anyone can say that they believe and accept Jesus, but then after we speak it, we need to act upon it. This shows God that our words are true and genuine. I promise, God will show you that his words are true and genuine as well 😊

What happens when you are baptized? Typically churches will offer you a long robe, think of what a choir singer would wear. You will step down into the mini pool and your pastor will say something like "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the son, and the holy spirit. You will then plug your nose and they will place their hand to help guide you down into the water and you will come back up after you have been immersed. Some churches will allow you the opportunity to give your testimony, if time permits. This is something good for you to think about. It explains a bit about your past and what led you to making the decision to follow after Christ. It doesn't have to be long, it can be short and to the point. It will contain things like why you wanted to choose a life for Christ, some ways where you have tried to live alone and failed, and the moment you decided to choose to follow after him.

Everyone's testimony will be different. Your testimony is unique and about you alone. It may be simple. Maybe you have grown up in church your whole life and not had too many faults. That is

awesome! Maybe you see examples of other people who have that joy of the Lord and you want to live like that—even better. The key is to make that decision inside of your heart and recognize that you need a Savior to save you. Too many times, churches just baptize anyone without them fully making a decision. Your mind has to be ready, you have to know that you need Jesus in your life. This is something to think about, to pray about, and to act upon if the Lord is leading you.

Daily reading: Matthew 5, The sermon on the mount, Salt and Light, Christ Came to fulfill the law, Anger,Lust, Divorce, Oaths, Retaliation, Love your enemies.

Pray this prayer for guidance about baptism:

Father God, I come to you for guidance in the decision to be baptized. I realize the need for it and want help to be able to find a place to be baptized. Your word states to believe, be baptized, and you will be saved. I want that saving grace that can only come from you. I am excited for what you are going to do in my life and I look forward to the days ahead. In your name I pray, Amen

Day 2 What is the Holy Spirit?

John 3:6

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Copy this verse:

In the book of John, specifically John 3:16 the bible talks about how we are born again. When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be saved. This isn't talking about when we are born from our mother's womb. It is talking about a spirit rebirth. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are rebirthing the Spirit of the Lord inside of us.....The Holy Spirit. When we choose to accept Jesus into our lives, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell inside our soul.

We are made up of three parts: body, soul and spirit. Our body consists of our physical bodies, the skin, hair, bones, heart, etc. Our soul is our mind, will, and emotions. Our spirit is what will reign in heaven or hell forever. This is made perfect when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We are allowing the Spirit of God, called the Holy Spirit, to dwell inside of us.

Why do we need this "Holy Spirit?" This is the MOST important key in your walk with the Lord. When God's spirit lives inside of you and guides you through life, you will do whatever he wants you to do. He will make your paths straight. He will lead you to the right job, the right spouse, the right everything in life. No longer will you "wonder" if what you do is the correct decision or not. People doubt things way to much in life. They make a decision and then when something comes up against it, they say, "Aghh, I should have not done that!" But if you follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and you do what he asked you to do, you will know that what you are doing is the right thing. If things come up against it, you will have the FAITH to know that no matter what happens, this is what the Lord has led you to do and he will make it happen. Plain and simple.

There is a chapter in John 14 that explains Jesus Promise of the Holy Spirit. Read verse 15-31. Read it so that you know it is in God's word and if God's word says it, then it must be true.

Underline the key phrases in this passage.

"You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

This is Jesus talking to his disciples about what is going to happen AFTER he leaves this earth. In the old testament they didn't have a way to talk directly to God. They would offer burnt offerings as repentance for their sins, etc. They would have to go to the priests when they needed to repent to God. We no longer live that way. When God sent Jesus to this earth, Jesus told us what we needed to do to live a life with God in heaven. He said that after he left, he would give us the Holy Spirit to guide

us and direct us in life so that we would know what to do. In the old testament, they had laws and rules to follow so that they would get to heaven. Then Jesus came and told us what we needed while he was here on earth. Then after he died and was resurrected, God sent the Holy Spirit to direct us until the Lord's returning to earth.

Daily bible reading: Matthew 6, Giving to the needy, The Lord's prayer, Fasting, Lay up treasures in heaven, Do not be anxious

Pray this prayer to gain a deeper understanding of living a life with the Holy Spirit as your guide:

Lord Jesus,

I come to you now, to gain more insight and understanding about being led by the spirit of God in my life. Help me to listen for it and to understand it is from you, not me. Show me how to be led daily in my life by your spirit. I want to live my life in line with what you have for me to do. Guide me and direct me with every decision in my days. I thank you in advance and believe that I will receive it, and in your name I pray, Amen

Day 3 Holy Spirit living

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Copy this verse:

The above verse talks about us before we have accept Jesus. Our natural inclinations are to be sinful and evil. Just look at a toddler. They want what they want. It is all about them. It is what we are born with and they call it the original sin. One that comes from Adam and Eve. In this verse it says, if you then who are evil---it talks about us before we were saved, and how even we know that we want to give good gifts to our children. Every parent desires to give the best to their children. It is in our nature to bless them because we love them. Now God, who is our heavenly Father wants to bless us as well. He is our heavenly father and he wants what is best for us.

Some would think that if he wants what is best for us he would give us things like money or materials to use here on earth. Don't just dismiss that idea right away. God does want the very best for you, what kind of Father would want anything less? But he knows what is the VERY BEST thing for us---we need a guide in life. We need someone to tell us where to go, what to do, and who to interact with. This guide is the Holy Spirit. He knows that by us allowing the guide to lead us in our walk, that we will be blessed and blessed abundantly. Just as your earthly father would not just hand you a million dollars and say so long.....a good father would guide you in right choices in life so that you can be successful. Your father can give you a million dollars, but if he doesn't give you guidance and direction, you yourself will just do what your "natural inclinations" tend to lead to. Selfishness. Selfishness will lead to destruction.

God wants good things for your life, a father that gives you sickness, poverty, and depression is NOT a good father. There is only one person who wants to destroy your life and give you bad things. His name is Satan. In John 10:10 it states.."The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Have you ever had anything stolen, killed, or destroyed in your life? Yes we all have. Don't leave the blame at God. God does not punish us in that way. He is not standing up in heaven looking down, destroying things in your life. That is the job of Satan. God blesses, satan destroys. When things start going wrong in your life, stop and consider what it is YOU are doing wrong. Are you listening and obeying the voice of the Lord? When things go bad, we are allowing satan access to our life. It is something that we do not have to do. Knowing what to do and how to defeat it, is the key.

Daily reading: Matthew 7, Judging others, Ask and it will be given, The golden rule, A tree and its fruit, I never knew you, Build your house upon the rock, The authority of Jesus.

Pray this prayer to gain more understanding to the Holy Spirit

Father God, I come to you humbly to ask for more guidance and wisdom from the Holy Spirit. I understand that you want only the best for me in my life. I know now that everything that is good comes from you and you alone. When bad things happen they are from Satan. Help me to learn how to discern between the two and follow after you. I want the best just as you do in my life. I will not accept anything less. I am confident and excited for the things to come. In your name I pray, Amen

Day 4 Listening to the spirit

John 10:3

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When you accept Jesus as your Savior, you have received the Holy Spirit as your guide. Most people will do nothing with it. They think it is just “there”. God gave it to us for a reason, so that we would know what to do with our lives. If you are truly seeking after God and what he has for you, then you can be confident to know that the “voice” you hear is from God.

Jesus said, ... “When you ask, you shall receive.” If you want the leading of the Lord in your life, all you have to do is ask. The next step is to put it into practice. That is the hard part for people. They start to question that whether the voice that they hear is from God or from themselves. Some would call it their conscience. When you hear that “inner voice” that is the Holy Spirit speaking to you. It doesn’t have to be an audible voice. You can just “sense” it inside of you.

Remember the things from God are good. In Galatians 5:22 it tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. If you are hearing “voices” and they are going against the word of God. Things that tell you bad things, negative things those are not from God. You are going to train yourself to be able to recognize what is from God and what is from the enemy. God will be good to help you learn to listen, but it is your job to do it. Most Christians will take a lifetime to figure this out. Some will never get to that point. But you can do it quickly, if you want it.

The only way you are going to know whether things are from God or not is to get to know God better. How do you get to know God better? You spend time with Him. You can’t expect a relationship to grow if you just spend an hour on Sunday with someone. It isn’t going to happen. This is what most people do, most Christians. It is sad. They only go to church and then when things start going bad in their lives, they cry out to God for help. God will be there but they will not know how to discern his voice and they will be listening to satan and doing what he tells them to do. This will end up in destruction and fail in areas of their life. They will wonder why things go wrong, they will come to expect that this is “God’s will” for them to be depressed, to have things go wrong, to be sick, and to accept defeat. It is only because they have not learned to listen to the voice of God.

If you want total victory in your life. Success and not failures, then you have to learn to listen to God’s voice, the Holy Spirit. You have to read God’s word daily, spend time in prayer, and obey his voice. When he tells you to do something, then do it. When Jesus was at the wedding in Cana in John 2 they ran out of wine and they had none to serve the guests. When asked what to do, his mother replied, “Whatever he tells you to do, do it!” That is going to be the key in your life. Whatever God tells you to do, do it. Don’t hesitate, don’t question, just trust that God will make it happen. This is when your faith is activated. Faith is trusting in the unknown. You don’t have to know the results, you just have to trust that God will make it happen.

When God leads you to do something, do it. If he tells you to give \$5 to the homeless person, do it, without question. When you ask for guidance in making a decision about a job, a way to deal with someone, or where to go, have faith that what he gives you in answer is what he wants you to do. If things start coming up against it, don't disregard that it must be the wrong choice. Be confident that it is the Lord's leading and go with it. That is how you live a life of faith. Faith is not knowing what is going to happen but to trust the decision.

Daily reading: Matthew 8 Jesus cleanses a leper, The faith of a centurion, Jesus heals many, The cost of following Jesus, Jesus calms a storm, Jesus heals two men with demons

Prayer this prayer

Lord I come to you because your word says to ask and you shall receive. I want to live a life of faith in you. I am asking in faith to hear your voice more clearly every day. I believe that I will receive it. Help me to be confident in my listening to follow after the Holy Spirits leading in my life. I am excited to begin this journey and confident that you will lead me. In your precious name I pray, Amen

Day 5 Trusting the Spirit

John 15:7

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Copy the above verse:

Trusting the Holy Spirit and learning to listen to Him isn't some "secret mystery" that takes some magical formula. God is always speaking. He will speak to us through His word, through prayer, and through other people. We just have to learn to open our spiritual ears to be able to hear him clearly.

When you dive into God's word daily and read his word, he speaks to you. He will bring up his truths when you go about your day and come about challenges, or instances where that verse will benefit you. When you are reading God's word, read it slowly and if something "sticks out" to you, underline it and read it again. Ask the Lord if that is something He wants you to remember. Maybe it will be something you are going through in life. Maybe a sickness, maybe a financial problem, maybe a relationship problem, whatever the situation he will speak to you through his word. It will just "pop up" in your insides and you will remember. That is how he will speak to you about something in your day. Maybe he will tell you not to go somewhere, or to call someone, or to say something to someone. All these things, do. Don't question or disregard what he tells you, whatever he tells you to do, do it.

As you see that by obeying him and how it benefited others or yourself, you will get a confirmation that it was God's word. I am sure you have had that "inclination" before that you should have done something and haven't right? After something happened, you may have said something like, "Oh I knew I should not have done that." At those moments in your life, make a conscious effort to not disobey again. It was God speaking to you for you to listen. The next time, do it. As you do it more and more, you are training yourself to be led by the Spirit of the Lord. As you grow, it will become easier and easier to listen because you will do it without question.

The thing that gets in the way is our pride. Our pride doesn't want to listen to God, because we think that we know best. But the truth is, is that God knows what is best for us and our ways should be His ways. The bible says that pride goes before destruction. We don't want to be destroyed, we want to be blessed. That can only come by us listening obeying the voice of God.

I know this is a huge step for some to comprehend. Don't take my word as truth, take it to God's word. That is why you are reading the word of God and why there are many bible verses about what we are studying. Take His word as truth. Study it more in depth. If you still aren't convinced, do a search for verses on the Holy Spirit and read them. Ask God to reveal to you the truths He wants you to learn.

Daily bible reading: Matthew 9, Jesus Heals a paralytic, Jesus calls Matthew, A question about fasting, A girl restored to life and a woman healed, Jesus heals two blind men, Jesus heals a man unable to speak, The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few.

Prayer for trusting his spirit:

Lord Jesus, I come to you because I want my spirit to be knit with yours. I want to be confident that what I hear is from you. I want direction in my life. I want blessings to follow. Guide me and help me listen to your voice. I trust in you. In your name I pray, Amen