

ACTS 3

1. For baptism, two steps are necessary. What are these two steps?

- The first step of baptism is repentance.
- The second step of baptism is receiving God into your life.

2. What does the baptism of John teach?

- That people had repented and were waiting for the Savior to come.

3. What does the baptism that Jesus gave to His disciples teach?

- That people have repented, and have believed in Jesus as their Savior.

4. In baptism, how is being lowered below the water a picture of death?

- It is a picture of Jesus dying for our sins.
- It is also a picture of Christians dying to sin.

5. In baptism, how is being raised back up above the water a picture of new life?

- It is a picture of Jesus rising from the dead.
- It is also a picture of Christians rising to a new life.

6. In whose name did Jesus tell the disciples to baptize believers?

- In the name of God the Father, God the Savior, and God

the Holy Spirit.

7. Why cannot baptism save us?

- Because baptism is that which people do, and there is nothing that people can do to save themselves.
- Because the death of Christ on the cross alone is all that can save us from sin, death, and Satan.

8. Why should believers be baptized?

- Because Jesus commanded believers to do so.

9. When we are baptized, what are we teaching ourselves and others?

- That the death of Christ is our death.
- That the resurrection of Christ is our resurrection.

-On the day of Pentecost, how many people believed and were baptized when Peter taught?

Let's read Acts 2:41

41-Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

-About three thousand men and women believed in Christ, and became a part of the church in Jerusalem.

-What did the Christians in Jerusalem do together as a Church?

Let's read Acts 2:42a

42-They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

-First, the Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.

-Whom did the apostles teach that which they had learned from Jesus?

-All of the believers in the Lord Jesus, that is, the Church.

-Jesus commanded the apostles to teach the believers everything He had taught them.

-Who reminded the apostles of everything that Jesus had taught them?

-The Holy Spirit.

-What else did the Holy Spirit teach the apostles?

-All the other truths which Jesus wanted the Church to know.

-There were many other new truths which Jesus wanted the apostles to understand and to teach to others.

-But the apostles could not understand these new truths

until the Holy Spirit came to live in them.

-Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles these new truths.

-The Holy Spirit reminded the apostles of that which Jesus had taught them, and taught them new truths that Jesus wanted them to know.

-Therefore, the apostles taught the believers in Jerusalem that which Jesus had taught them and new truths which the Holy Spirit taught them.

-What did the Holy Spirit also do so that all people could understand the teachings of Jesus?

-The Holy Spirit guided the apostles to write down these teachings in the Bible.

-These teachings were written by the apostles so we could also teach them to new believers.

-God has given all believers the responsibility to learn His Word and to teach it to others.

-What else did the Christians in Jerusalem do together as a Church?

Let's read Acts 2:42b

42-[They devoted themselves] to the fellowship.

-Secondly, the Christians devoted themselves to fellowship.

-The early Christians made friends with the newer Christians, and they spent much time together.

-Did they meet together as a group with non Christians?

-No.

-The Christians met separately from the non Christians.

-Why did they meet together separately from the non Christians?

-Because they all belonged to the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Because they all were indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

-Because they were in fellowship with each other.

-Should Christians find their friendship with the world?

-No.

-Why should Christians make friends with other Christians and not with the world?

-Because we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Because we have been called out of the world.

-Because we are called into companionship with each other.

-Should we then not spend any time with non Christians?

-No.

-Christians must be friendly to non Christians and spend time with them.

-Why must Christians be friendly to non Christians and spend time with them?

-In order to teach them about Jesus.

-What else did the Christians in Jerusalem do together as a Church?

Let's read Acts 2:42c

42-[They devoted themselves] to the breaking of bread.

-Thirdly, the Christians remembered Jesus' death by eating bread and drinking wine.

-Here is how Jesus taught His disciples to remember his death:

Let's read Mark 14:22

22-While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

-Jesus took the bread that was on the table in front of

Him, broke it, and handed it to His apostles.

-What were the apostles to remember when they ate the bread?

-That Jesus' body was broken for our sins.

-After Jesus gave the apostles the bread, He took a cup of wine and told them each to drink a little.

Let's read Mark 14:23-24

23-Then [Jesus] took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

24-"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.

-What were the apostles to remember when they drank the wine?

-That Jesus blood was poured out for our sins.

-Jesus told the apostles that they were to meet together to break bread and to drink wine so that they would not forget His death.

-When the Christians met together in Jerusalem, they obeyed Jesus' command to remember His death.

-This time of remembering Jesus' death is called the

Lord's Supper.

-Today, all believers in Christ should remember Christ's death with the Lord's Supper.

-In Israel, Jesus used bread because the Jews ate bread every day.

-In other cultures, the everyday food may be different.

-In some parts of the world, the everyday food is rice or ugali or injerra.

-For most people, it is not important whether bread or rice or ugali or injerra is used for the Lord's Supper.

-It is important, however, to understand that the bread or rice or ugali or injerra represents the body of Christ which was broken on the cross so that we may live.

-Before we eat the bread, we must wait for the other believers to receive their bread.

-By waiting for the other believers, everyone can eat at the same time.

-By eating at the same time, we are reminded that the Lord Jesus has made us one with His broken body.

-After receiving the bread, it is good to bow our heads

and be silent, remembering Jesus' death on the cross for us.

-After everyone has received the bread, it is good for one person to pray for everyone, thanking God just as Jesus did.

-As we eat the bread together, it is good to think of Jesus' death, and to thank the Lord Jesus once again that He died for us that we might live.

-In Israel, Jesus used wine because the Jews drank wine often.

-In other cultures, wine is not appropriate, and people use juice.

-For most people, it is not important whether wine or juice is used for the Lord's Supper.

-It is important, however, to understand that the wine or juice represents the blood of Christ Jesus which Jesus poured out on the cross so that we may live.

-Before we drink the juice, we must wait for the other believers to receive their juice.

-By waiting for the other believers, everyone can drink at the same time.

-By drinking at the same time, we are reminded that the Lord Jesus has made us one with His blood on the cross.

-After receiving the juice, it is good to bow our heads and be silent, remembering Jesus' death on the cross for us.

-After everyone has received the juice, it is good for one person to pray for everyone, thanking God just as Jesus did.

-As we drink the juice together, it is good to think of Jesus' death, and to thank the Lord Jesus once again that He died for us that we might live.

-What else did the Christians in Jerusalem do together as a Church?

Let's read Acts 2:42d

42-And [they devoted themselves] . . .to prayer.

-Fourthly, the Christians devoted themselves to prayer.

-Prayer was an important part of the lives of God's children in the Old Testament.

-David prayed this:

Let's read Psalm 55:16-17

16-“But I call to God, and the LORD saves me.

17-Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.”

-Prayer was also very important in the life of Jesus.

-Jesus knew that He needed His Father’s guidance and help in all that He said and did.

-Jesus knew that He could only receive this help by talking with His Father.

Let’s read Mark 1:35

35-Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

-Before Jesus chose His disciples, He prayed to His Father.

Let’s read Luke 6:12-13

12-One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

13-When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

-Before Jesus was crucified, He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.

Let’s read Mark 14:32-36

32-They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

33-He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

34-“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

35-Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

36-“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

-Jesus was God, yet He talked to His Father at all times.

-Should we also pray at all times?

-Yes.

-We should pray as individuals, as families, and together as the Church of the Lord Jesus.

-As we continue reading the Acts of the Apostles, we will see that prayer was an important part of the early Church.

-Prayer should also be very important to us.

-As there were many believers in Jerusalem who were poor, other believers in the church shared with them.

Let's read Acts 2:44-45

44-All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45-Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

-Each person has been given what he has by God.

-Each person is responsible to God for what he does with what he has.

-We should not expect other people to provide for us.

-God wants each person to work to provide for himself, his wife, and his family.

-At the same time, believers should also care for one another.

-How can believers care for one another?

-By helping one another and by giving to one another.

-If we give to one another, we are giving to the Lord.

-Even if we do not have money to give to God, we can give our time to help others.

-We can help others by sharing food with them, helping them when they are sick, and helping them in their fields.

-The Christians in Jerusalem showed love to one another by giving to one another.

-The Lord also wants us to give to one another.

-The Christians in Jerusalem were also thankful to God.

Let's read Acts 2:46-47a

46-Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

47-praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

-The early Christians thanked God for:

-His forgiveness of their sins.

-His gift of eternal life through Jesus.

-His daily care for them.

-When Christians first believe in Christ, their hearts are filled with praise to God.

-But as time goes by, there is a danger that:

- People turn their attention to other things.
- People become cold and careless in their hearts.
- People no longer praise God as they did at first.

-After God opened the Red Sea and led them through, what did the Israelites do?

-They praised God and thanked Him for saving them from Pharaoh and his army.

-A few days later when they needed water in the desert, what did the Israelites do?

- They complained and rebelled against God.
- They forgot about the great things that God had done.

-This should be a warning to all of us.

-It is very important that we continue to praise God even when we have difficulties.

-We should praise God at all times:

- When we are working in the fields.
- When we are walking alone on the path.
- When we are resting in our homes.

-We should also praise and worship God in prayer and

song when we gather together as a church.

-Because the Christians in Jerusalem were strong in their faith, many more people came to believe in Christ.

Let's read Acts 2:47b

47-And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- How did these people hear about Jesus?
- Through the Church, that is, Christians.

-The apostles and the other believers were teaching other people the Word of God.

- This is the responsibility of every believer.
- All of us should be telling others about Jesus.

-We can tell others about Jesus at any time.

- When non Christians come to visit in our homes.
- When we are working in our fields.
- When we are in the market.

-We should use every opportunity that God gives us to teach people the Word of God.

-If people believe in Christ, God will add them to us, His Church.