

## Session Nine

# Baptism

Baptism is about understanding who we are in Christ Jesus – that when He died, I died with Him, when He was buried I was buried with Him and when He rose from the dead I too was raised with Him to New Life – His Eternal Life!

All who receive Jesus Christ should be taught these valuable truths and be encouraged to be baptised in obedience to Christ and as a public testimony to their family and friends that they are now a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Note:** New Believers and even non Believers can begin and host a Discovery Group, but all who want to lead a Discovery Group should complete Dynamic Basics and be baptised before they are expected to lead the group.

### My Baptism is My Public Declaration

Note: This session is adapted from the teaching of Watchman Nee from his book, *The Normal Christian Life*.

#### Discussion Questions – Turn to the person next to you and ask:

- Are you glad that you are God's New Creation?
- What has changed in your life since you became a new creation in Christ?
- Are these good changes?
- Would you want your friends and family to enjoy these kinds of changes in their lives?
- Baptism is a way for you to explain to them what has happened to you.

### Baptism

***“Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death...”***

Romans 6:3, 4

What is the significance of these words? (Discuss this question with your partner)

#### The Grave



Buried With Christ

- The Grave signifies that we are dead!
- Our water baptism is our testimony to the fact that we have died – that we have exited from the old life of Adam.

***“We were therefore buried with him through baptism...”***

Romans 6:4

## Baptism is Burial

- Who qualifies for burial? Only the dead! So, if I ask for baptism I proclaim that I am dead and fit only for the grave.
- Unless our eyes have been opened by God to see that we have died in Christ and been buried with Him, we have no right to be baptized.
- The reason we submit ourselves to the water of baptism is that we have recognized that in God's sight we have already died.
- The fact that I have died is what we are declaring by baptism.
- God has already crucified me! But to pass from the old world system into the new world system, I must go through the grave.
- Baptism is very important because it affirms that I am indeed cut off from Satan's kingdom and now I belong to God's kingdom. It means a definite conscious break with the old way of life.
- This is the meaning of Romans 6:2: ***"We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?"*** Paul says, in effect, "If you plan to continue in the old way of life, why be baptized?"
- Water baptism clears the way for the new creation by our affirming the burial of the old.

## Resurrection

In your **Resurrection with Christ** you received His life as your life and that is all you need for your life in that new world.

***"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death..."***

***Why? ...in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."***

Romans 6:4

## Resurrection



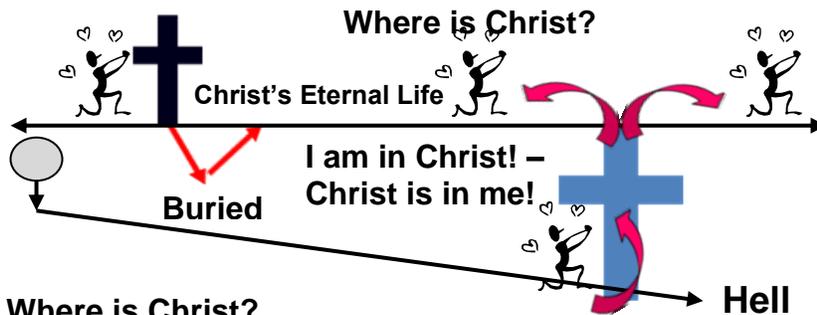
- I am alive to God!
- I have Christ's life in me!
- I am a partaker of God's divine nature! 2 Peter 1:4

## Resurrected to Live a New Life!

***"If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in resurrection."*** Romans 6:5

- I am, ***"baptized into his death"***, (because I am in Christ) but...
- His resurrection enters into me, (because Christ is in me) imparting to me a new life.
- His Life is grafted into me – my life now comes from and is His Life in me!

## God Gives Us Eternal Life In Christ



## I am in Christ – Christ is in me!

### New Birth!

- 'New Birth' results when I receive His life as my life at Salvation.
- Baptism does not save me, no it demonstrates what happened at salvation.
- It is not that I clean up or change my natural life - not at all; rather it is that another life, a life altogether new, altogether Divine (2 Peter 1:4), has become my life.
- The life of Jesus is the only life that could ever please God and He has implanted His life into millions of believer's world wide.
- Jesus lives His Eternal Life in Me!

### It Has Been Done!

- Through the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ that old world has, "***been crucified to me, and I to the world***". Galatians 6:14
- Baptism does not save me. I must receive Jesus Christ as my Savior!
- My baptism is my public testimony to what has already been done by Christ.

### Discussion Questions

- Do you have any questions?
- Have you been baptised as a Believer?
- Do you want to be baptised?
- How will having the knowledge of this session enable you to live differently this week and the rest of your life?
- **What will you do** this week to demonstrate that you are dead to this world system and are a new creation in Christ?  
The answer is: **Let Christ do whatever he wants through you!**

### Application

- Would you like to be baptised?
- If so, then talk to your Pastor or Discovery Group leader and ask to be baptised.
- Let Christ do whatever He wants through you this week!
- Watch for ways Jesus lived through you this week.