

Baptism in Water

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?... Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:3-6)

As with every command of God, including any external act, obedience is what God primarily seeks after with an inward reality of a living fellowship with Him as fruit of our obedience.

For example:

- Circumcision: God was looking for a circumcision of the heart (Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4, Colossians 2:11)
- Offering of sacrifices: Obedience from the heart with trust in God is what He was looking for (Jeremiah 7:21-23, Psalm 50:8-14)

And so, baptism is more than just an application of water to a man, but also an inward realization of the death of his old man. His allegiance is changed from living in sin to an application of his life to the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

A primary inward reality of baptism is the crucifixion of our old man with Christ (Romans 6:6).

Why then, if the old man is crucified, do most christians still 'struggle' and are defeated by sin?

- i. It is possible to be a christian (and baptised) without properly knowing (and reckoning) this truth of the death of the old man and the life of the new man within. Hence, many believers, unconsciously, still carry around their dead old man.
- ii. After a proper reckoning of this fact of the death of our old man, the command follows to put off that old man and actively put on the new man (Jesus Christ): Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10; Romans 13:14, etc
- iii. There is still a battle with our flesh which will only be won (that is, put to death) by putting on Christ daily and living by His Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18; Colossians 3:3-5; Romans 6:13)

Water Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality. The inward reality is:

- My old man is crucified with Christ Jesus
- I am no longer a debtor to this old man as I have put it off and put on the new man, Jesus Christ, and given myself to be led by His Spirit
- Victory over sin will only occur as I remain hid in and clothed by this new man, Jesus, and led by His Spirit
- The flesh continues to war against the Spirit of Christ in me, but victory over the flesh and its expressions (lust, jealousy, covetousness, fornication, etc) is assured always as I remain hid in Him

This, by the grace of God, must be our testimony after baptism