

PAUL MAGBADELO

Understanding
WATER BAPTISM



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ISBN:.....

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All scriptural quotations are from King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

DEDICATION

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATION TO **MY MENTOR** AND FATHER IN
THE FAITH,
BISHOP DAVID O. OYEDEPO

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

Water baptism is a commandment. It is not optional. Every child of God is expected to submit to the ordinance in obedience to the commandment of God.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20)

One of the things He commanded was **water baptism**. And all of His commandments are not grievous, but are carriers of blessings **and** profits.

IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

It is very significant for a believer after he is saved to publicly identify with Christ by submitting to the ordinance of baptism in accordance with God’s instruction. It is an experience after salvation to confirm and strengthen your commitment to live **a** godly life.

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”. (Mark 16:16).

AFFIRMATION OF HIS LORDSHIP

The moment you believe, you are expected to publicly affirm the Lordship of Jesus over every area of your life.

When you humbly conform with this ordinance, you are identifying with His death and resurrection. You are equally affirming your faith in the finished work of cavalry, and expressing your submission to His Lordship over your life.

What you are saying in essence is that your will has been swallowed up by His will. Your opinion is now submitted to His own. I want to believe that everyone baptized into Christ must be able to live just like Jesus here on this earth.

Hear this:

“Therefore; when he came into the world, he said, sacrifice and offering you did not desire but a body you have prepared for me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, you had no pleasure; then I said Behold I have come in the volume of the Book – it written of me to do your will, Oh God”.

(Hebrews 10:5-7)

Even Jesus Christ submitted himself to be baptized in water by immersion. You remember the argument that ensued before he was baptized. John the Baptist was not willing to baptize him, claiming, he needed to be baptized by Jesus. But hear the response of Christ:

“And Jesus answering said unto him, suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness”. *(Matthew 3:15).*

He is an example. He is the perfect son. He is the first born among brethren. As believers, we are admonished in the Bible to look unto Him who is the author and finisher of our faith – **Hebrews 12:2**.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps”. *(1 Peter 2:21).*

BOOSTER OF SALVATION

Water Baptism is significant because it is a necessary condition for our eventual salvation. It is mandatory for any simple believer who wants to be saved..... *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.....”*
(Mark 16:16).

EXCHANGE OF THE OLD FOR THE NEW

Water baptism represents a public renouncement of the past life for a new one. At baptism you testify to the world that you have left your old ways to walk **in** a new one.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”. (Romans 6:4).

When you are buried in water, your old ways or pattern of life is buried. At your being raised from water you come out in the likeness of **His** resurrection into newness of life. In essence, the old you had died, but a new you is now alive. I believe that this is the view Paul expressed in **Galatians 2:20**.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the son of God who loved me ,and gave Himself for me”.

FULFILLMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Water baptism is the fulfillment of all righteousness. What is righteousness? Very simply, it is standing right with God. When you have right standing with God, you are righteous. When you submit to the ordinance of water baptism, you have obeyed God. You are certainly fulfilling all righteousness. John the Baptist tried to dissuade Jesus from fulfilling all righteousness – **Matthew 3:15**.

It was a serious issue to Jesus. He had to travel from Galilee to Jordan in order to fulfill the ordinance of baptism. Therefore, a believer should never attempt to commonise it. It is mandatory for every believer to be baptized. **Matthew 21:25**.

John the Baptist conducted baptism for many. Jesus also in his earthly ministry permitted **His** disciples to conduct this ordinance for people – John 1:31, John 3:26. The Apostles continued with it after the departure of Jesus.

“When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples)” Mark 4:1-2.

CHAPTER 2

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTABLE BAPTISM

The scripture does not leave us in doubt as regards the essentials for acceptable baptism. In this chapter, we shall discuss them one after the other.

1. SALVATION:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). One of the major requirements for acceptable water baptism is salvation. It is very mandatory for anyone who must be baptized to first believe. Until you believe, you are not qualified to be baptized. Should you be baptized without first believing on the Lord Jesus, you have gone to swim!

It is therefore necessary for ministers to ensure they do not lay hand suddenly on any man. They should be sure of the salvation of those who are baptized in their ministry. You cannot draw the full benefits of water baptism except you are saved. Partial obedience is not acceptable to God.

You remember the story in Acts of Apostles, where Peter counseled his listeners as regards the baptism in the Holy Spirit. *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter, and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).*

Hear Peter’s reply:

“Then Peter said unto them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ” (Acts 2:38).

There are some acceptable baptismal examples in the scriptures that could help us understand this.

You remember John the Baptist said, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11).*

In essence he proclaimed water baptism as a public affirmation of their repentance and open identification with Christ.

2. BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

Scriptural baptism is baptism in water by immersion. The whole body must be buried in water; signifying that it is buried into the death of Jesus Christ.

“Know ye not, that so many as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by the baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”. (Romans 6:3-4).

Kenneth Copeland put it this way: “The baptismal water represents a burial ground”. He was of the view that when you were buried in baptism you made a proclamation that the old you no longer exist.

When you are raised from the water, it signifies being raised to new life in Christ. It means you have surrendered totally to the Lordship of Jesus in every area of your life.

“Likewise reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Christ Jesus our Lord”. (Romans 6:11). A man who has been baptized in water is expected to live a life of dominion. He must have dominion over the flesh and sin. His will is totally crucified. His language and conviction will reflect this statement *“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done”. (Luke 22:42)*

Therefore anyone submitting to this ordinance must not struggle with the one baptizing him. He must clearly show that he has surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus. No dead man struggle with those committing his remains to the mother earth.

If you are to be truly buried with Christ, then you must surrender. The dead has no problem surrendering to be buried. If truly you are dead to self as you are publicly declaring, then prove it by surrendering. Don't struggle; release yourself to the one baptizing you.

Allow every part of you to go down into the water. John's baptism was by immersion. Jesus was baptized by immersion, and every other baptism we saw recorded in the New Testament was by immersion.

3. ADULT BAPTISM

Infant baptism is not scriptural. The scripturally approved baptism is adult baptism. By adult, I mean someone who is able to understand his action. I am not talking about chronological age. I am talking about scriptural maturity. The moment a man can believe on the Lord Jesus for salvation, he is a potential candidate for baptism. For some, at eight (8) years they are spiritually mature for baptism while some at even Forty (40) years are yet not mature because they lack understanding of what it is to be born again. You remember Nicodemus, "*Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*". (*John 3:3*).

Therefore the task of determining who qualifies for baptism is the responsibility of the Pastor of an assembly who knows the level of understanding of his people. **Never baptize** a man on the ground that he **has been** long in the Church. Please find out whether he or she is born again or not.

4. BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE TRINITY

The authority for baptism is the Godhead. The acceptable baptism must be done in the name of the Trinity. No wonder Jesus gave the express instruction contained in Matt. 28:19.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of The Holy Spirit”.

. Except you baptize the people as commanded, it is not acceptable to **Him**. Partial obedience does not pay. It takes total conformity to enjoy the benefits of baptism. You cannot baptize the sick in **His** name and not see a change in their health. When you baptize the saved who are yet to be filled with Holy Spirit they are likely to come out filled with the Holy Spirit just like the case of Christ. I have experienced marvels by baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 3

MODE TO ASSUME IN BAPTISM

Baptism is a spiritual ordinance, hence it should be approached and handled spiritually. The profit of baptism is only realizable when it is properly approached.

There are four main approaches the Holy Spirit showed me concerning profitable baptism in water. We shall discuss them one after the other,

1. APPROACH BAPTISM WITH KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge precedes the delivery of blessings. It is what you know that produces for you in this kingdom. It takes good understanding to procure the working of God in your favour – Prov. 13:15. It is very important for those who are submitting to the ordinance of baptism to understand in details the essence of this exercise.

They must understand that water baptism is a commandment that carries profits. There is no commandment of God that is void of profit.

Every act in obedience to the word of God is expected to deliver profit to the obedient. This is because every scripture is packaged for profiting.

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”.
(John 8:32).

It is therefore significant for everyone intending to be baptized in water to be taught before they are baptized.

It is only those who are discipled that are qualified to be baptized. Until you are discipled, you don't qualify for baptism. Ignorance is a deadly disease. No wonder, God, lamented in Hosea 4:6, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*".

Also in **Isaiah** 5:13, there is a similar lamentation. "*Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst*". I therefore strongly recommend that everyone who wants to profit wonderfully from water baptism must be well instructed before being baptized. This will enable them **to** approach this spiritual exercise with understanding. Every simple word of scripture carries life. Therefore, until they approach it with understanding, the life inside the commandment will not flow to them. "*The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live*". (*Psalm 119:144*).

2. APPROACH IT WITH FAITH

The whole Christian adventure is called "THE FAITH". Therefore, in this kingdom everything you do should be done by faith. It is faith that causes whatever you do in this kingdom to produce. If you must move the hands of God in your direction, your actions must be motivated by faith. It is what is done in faith that moves God.

It takes faith to take delivery of the profit of scriptures. "For *by it the elders obtained a good report*". (*Hebrews 11:2*). When you look closely at Luke 3:21-22, you will appreciate the place of faith.

"Now *when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased*".

Others were baptized without record made of any spectacular happenings. But for Jesus, there were spectacular happenings. Why? The reason is that he observed the ordinance with faith.

How do I know? These are the main reasons I know he went in by faith.

- You cannot pray and receive result outside of faith. It is only the prayer of faith that is tremendous in its workings.
- The Father simply confirmed that Jesus carried out the exercise by faith; when he said,
“Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased”

“But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”. (Hebrews 11:6).

Therefore, anyone who must profit exceptionally from water baptism must approach it with strong faith, believing he will surely access the reward of obedience.

3. APPROACH IT WITH EXPECTATIONS

Faith has hopes. After **all**, faith is simply the *“substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*. (Hebrews 11:1). Therefore, if you say you have faith there must be expectations. Your expectations are things you hope for. **Do not** approach baptism without a clearly articulated expectation or else you come back just as **you were before you** entered the water. It is only what you expect that your faith can draw.

I strongly believe that Jesus went into the baptism with a clear expectation of what he saw. He was expecting to receive the Holy Spirit. He saw it. What you **do not** expect you **will not** see. What you **do not** expect you **will not** handle.

Your expectation matters in your walk with God. That was why Jesus asked the blind man in Mark 10:51. *“What will thou that I should do unto thee?”* In our modern language, **He** was simply asking for his expectation. The man responded, *“Lord, that I might receive my sight”*. He got all he **expected!** If he had more expectations other than

just receiving his sight, he would have been granted them also. But he had only one, and it was granted him, because it was what he needed.

Expectation provokes God's manifestation or intervention. If you want to experience God's manifestation, set up your expectations and mean it. I have been privileged to see and hear all manner of testimonies from water baptism after teaching these same materials.

I have seen people whose expectation, **was** to be baptized in the Holy Ghost, people who desired bodily healing and got just what they desired. It is written in Proverbs 24:14: "*So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off*". Therefore, get the people to set up great desires as they obey God by submitting to the ordinance of water baptism. I see them encounter diverse testimonies in Jesus mighty Name!

4. APPROACH IT PRAYERFULLY

Spiritual things need to be approached spiritually. Water baptism is a spiritual exercise. Therefore it must be approached prayerfully. Jesus who is our perfect example went into baptism prayerfully and the difference became very clear. Hear this:

*"When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, **the heaven opened**". (Luke 3:21).* The difference is very clear. Others went in without prayers and nothing spectacular happened to them. They **went to the baptism** casually.

But Jesus went in prayerfully and **His** heaven opened; **He** had an encounter.

Prayer secures the response of the divine God. It is a mighty force that moves God's hands in a man's direction. No wonder the scripture says,

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”. (Matthew 7:7).

Jesus got to the point of knocking; that was why the windows of heaven were opened to Him. I strongly believe that what Jesus asked for was what **He** saw. No matter what you are facing, prayer will always secure its end. If you will also maintain a prayerful attitude as you go for baptism, I see God show you great and mighty things that you do not know. **Jeremiah 33:3.**

CHAPTER 4

BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

Anything God asks you to do, carries profit. When He shows you the way to go and you agree to follow it, you certainly partake of the profit it carries – **Isaiah 48:17.**

God’s ways are contained in **His** word. Any of His word you locate and obey is capable of delivering blessings into your hands. Hear this:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where I sent it". (Isaiah 55:8-11).

All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Each time you locate anything in the Bible, and submit yourself to it, by obedience, you register to take delivery of the profit it carries. It is not permitted to return void. It has a mission. The ordinance of water baptism has scriptural base.

As you submit to it, you register yourself to partake of the profits it carries. Here I want to discuss some of the profits of water baptism. They include the following:

1. NEWNESS OF LIFE

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life". (Romans 6:4).

After baptism, you are expected to walk in newness of life. Your old self was buried at baptism; a new you is now alive. Probably, before you were baptized things were not working for you.

Now that you are baptized the newness should reflect in all areas of your life. You are raised in the likeness of **His** resurrection. You are therefore expected to walk and live fulfilled and glorified. Your life should take a new turn. Old things are passed away for you – 2 **Corinthians** 5:17.

2. OPEN HEAVEN

In the whole of scriptures, there were two instances where heaven was opened. One has to do with tithing (**Malachi 3:10**) and the other one

during Christ's baptism (**Matthew 3:16**). So at baptism in water you can secure open heaven.

Whenever heaven is opened blessings are poured down. You remember what God said in **Malachi 3:10**:

“And pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it”.

At **Jesus'** baptism, the heaven opened and God poured out the desire of Christ. Your desire therefore is what determines the kind of blessings you attract during baptism. I have seen expectant souls baptized in the Holy Ghost during baptism in water. I have seen people delivered of their long standing plagues. Countless blessings are available whenever the heaven is opened. You won't miss your own!

3. SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

You can be baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues just like it came on Christ. I have seen it before. Your spiritual ears can be opened to hear God clearly. You remember that Jesus heard clearly from heaven a voice saying, *“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”*. (**Matthew 3:17**).

Whenever your spiritual ears are healed and made to hear God, you enter the realm of triumph and sweatless victories on the earth. A man with open spiritual ears **will not** lack direction. From now, you will never lack direction in the mighty name of Jesus!

4. BODILY HEALINGS

At baptism in water you can be healed of whatever plague you are carrying. As you are buried into water, so you are buried into his death. When you are raised from the water, you are raised into new life, with glorified body; that is free from sickness, after the order of his resurrection. Therefore, whatever sickness or affliction was holding **you**, must give way.

If God says you are raised in the likeness of his resurrection, it means every grave; sickness or affliction cannot attach itself to you any

longer. So as many as are sick in their bodies should expect bodily healings as they go for water baptism.

Water baptism is a commandment that has **its** root in the word. When you obey the word, you contact healing virtue, since the word of God is a carrier of this virtue. **See what the scripture says in Proverbs 4:20-22.**

*“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh”.*

CHAPTER 5

AFTERMATH OF BAPTISM

“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4).

The subject of baptism is one of the elementary principles of the Christian faith. It is fundamental to a life of triumph. It reveals your public identification with Christ. You are directly declaring to the world your sonship. You can still remember vividly that Jesus Christ was declared a son immediately after His baptism. Therefore, baptism is a confirmation of your sonship in the kingdom of God. (See Galatians 4:1-7).

Now that you have been declared to the world as a son, there are things that should characterize your life and pattern of behavior. These simply constitute the attitudes of a baptized life. The old man has been crucified. You should no longer associate yourself with anything that could bring reproach to the name of Christ.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Once you are baptized into Christ, your old life of sin, failure, shame should totally give way to a new life. You are now free to live to glorify God on earth. Romans 8:30.

This is why Paul said,

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:

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.

For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being

raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.” (Romans 6:5-10).

You are now alive in Christ Jesus. You are to reflect your identity with Christ. You are no longer under the government of the prince of the power of the air but under Christ. The lust of the flesh and the desire of the flesh no longer dominate you.

1. Live in Newness of Life

This is life devoid of the old man and his behaviours, because sin no longer **has dominion** over you. You are now empowered with purpose to walk in true holiness. This is because you have been raised in the order of Christ to live a glorified life (**see Romans 6:14**). It takes purity to enjoy the blessings of your redemption.

Remember, at baptism, you are declared to the world as a son of God. This means you have decided to be separated unto Him and to **His** glory alone.

“And declared to be the son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:” (Romans 1:4).

By being baptized into death, and raised in His likeness, you also have been declared as a son to your world. You are to demonstrate this by operating in holiness.

2. Live in Conformity with the Word

It is now mandatory for you to begin a genuine walk in the word of God. You are a spirit being and the food of the spirit is the word of God.

To maintain your dominion over sin, sickness and Satan, the word of God is your potent weapon. It is the food of the spirit.

The Psalmist said:

“Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11).

No wonder Isaiah had to say, “*O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.*” (*Isaiah 2:5*). You cannot walk in the light and stumble. Your new experience should not be allowed to be destroyed. Your testimony should be forever. *“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14).*

“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: The fear of the Lord is his treasure.” (Isaiah 33:6).

You are redeemed to live the abundant life (*John 10:10*). But to live it, you need the knowledge of God’s word. You can’t remain a babe in the knowledge of God’s word and access your inheritance in Christ. The difference between the slave and the son is knowledge (*Galatians 4:1-7*).

Without knowledge of God’s word you become a reproach to redemption. As much as you can, go for the knowledge of God’s word. No wonder Paul told Timothy – to study if he desires to radiate God’s glory. This is not optional; it is mandatory. Jesus lived a studious life while on earth. Paul also lived a studious life. You also should.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Shame and reproach shall be far from your life. “For the scripture saith, *whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.*” (*Romans 10:11*).

But should you fail to walk in the word you will be held captive by circumstances of life. Your authority and power is in the word. It is what empowers you over all challenges of life (*Romans 1:16*).

Hear this:

“Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge, and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude

dried up with thirst.” (Isaiah 5:13).

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (Hosea 4:6).

Friends, you have been redeemed unto your God as priests and kings to reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:10). Apostle Peter equally confirmed this when he said,

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:” (1 Peter 2:9).

But if you neglect His word as a priest, you suffer rejection. God will not reject you and your children! It is time to give attention to His word so as to live a miraculous life.

3. Walk in Faith

Your baptism is an aftermath of your salvation, and it is product of your faith in Christ. It is a public declaration of your faith in the accomplished work of Christ.

To fully maximize your potential in your walk with God now that you have publicly identified with Christ, there is need for you to be reminded of the fact that faith is a principal requirement.

“For we walk by faith, not by sight:” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

You **do not** walk by your senses after your new experience; rather you express your trust in His word.

Not what I see but what He has said is the motto of those who will make it on this journey. You must be ready to call those things that be not as though they were or else you will not go far. Abraham is a known example:

“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were”. (Romans 4:17).

Faith is simply taking God at His word. As you read the Bible, believe that it is addressed to you and always ensure you apply it to your life. This will enable you to have a better Christian life, as well as overcome all contrary circumstances.

Remember you must make effort to keep hearing the word of God.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”. (Romans 10:17).

As you keep walking by faith, you are set for fame. You are set to shake your world.

Hear this:

“But I say, have they not heard? Yes, indeed their sound has gone to all the earth and their words to the ends of the world”. (Romans 10:18)

Now that you have been publicly declared as the son of God, the devil will be on the lookout for how he could trap you. You remember he did so to Jesus immediately after His baptism. He was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. If he did it to Jesus, expect it. (Matthew 3:5-17, Matthew 4:1-11).

Jesus overcame the devil by His expressed faith in the word. He kept on declaring what is written. The devil departed and the angels came to minister to Him. You also need to walk by faith to overcome all the schemes and temptations of the devil that he may put on your path. It is my prayer that you overcome.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”. (1 John 5:4).

Your understanding of who you are and your faith is all you need to live a victorious Christian life.

“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” (1 John 5:19).

No matter the wickedness, you can keep yourself by the use of your weapon of faith. You are untouchable. The seal of “touch not” remains on you if you walk in faith. This is because with faith, you can quench every fiery dart of the wicked.

From today! No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper. (Isaiah 54:17).

4. Walk in the Spirit

Now that you are baptized into Christ, you need to press to be baptized in the spirit. You must desire to live a spirit-filled life. Baptism is not the end of the journey.

It is a fundamental element of your faith. There is a place called forward. The Spirit of God is our Helper as we desire to please the Lord in our walk with Him.

You will discover that as Jesus was coming out of the water, He was baptized with the Holy Spirit. So you equally need this experience after you are baptized in water. This will enhance your growth in the spirit and your walk in the statutes of God. But if you are already baptized with the spirit like Cornelius before your baptism, then you must seek a fellowship with the Spirit (Acts 10).

“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:27).

Your walk in the Spirit is what will ensure your victory over the flesh and its lust.

No wonder Paul said:

“This I say then, Walk in the spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: (Galatians 5:16-17).

It takes walking in the spirit to be directed of the spirit. (Rom. 8:14). He is our heavenly appointed guide. You cannot be in the flesh and be in the Spirit at the same time. Desire a fresh baptism of the **Spirit** of God.

The **Spirit** gives you power to level all mountains on your path to spiritual fulfillment.

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Who art thou, O great mountain before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.” (Zechariah 4:6-7).

Your walk in the **Spirit** guarantees your protection from every work of darkness. As you walk in the **Spirit**, He lifts standard against every work of the devil in your life. (**Isaiah 59:19**).

5. Live a lifestyle of Prayer

As you have been newly baptized, you have become the target of the devil. He will seek a way of pulling you back into sin and into his kingdom. But if you are prayerful, you can escape his schemes against you. Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the devil came with diverse temptations, but He overcame.

As a believer, you are counseled to pray without ceasing. You are not to faint but to pray. Prayer builds up your faith and with faith you can quench every fiery dart of the devil. (**see Luke 18:1; Jeremiah 33:3; Jude 20**).

It is required of you to call on God in prayer in order to see great things (**Jeremiah 33:3**). Through the persistent prayer of Daniel, the scheme of the power of darkness against him was thwarted. No wonder Jesus told the disciples to watch and pray so as not to fall into temptation. Prayer therefore, is your surest security against the schemes of the wicked. The drama that happened between the prophets of **Baal** and Elijah brought out the power of prayer over the forces of evil. If you must succeed in your new found faith, then, you ought to be prayerful. Jesus is our perfect example and when you read the gospels you see the way He prayed. (1 Peter 2:21).

“And in the morning, risen up a great while before day, He went out, and departed to a solitary place, and there prayed” (**Mark 1:35**).

The Apostles equally knew the significance of prayer in the Christian adventure. Hear this:

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word”. (**Acts 6:4**).

It is to be habitual. They said “we will give ourselves” to prayer. It was one of the primary spiritual assignments of the Apostles. (**1 Corinthians 14:15**). Paul equally knew the place of prayer in the Christian walk. It is your turn to live a prayerful Christian life. The more prayerful you are, the closer you are to God.

6. Stay in Fellowship

You are called into fellowship with God and with the brethren. (**1 Corinthians 1:9**). You are not to walk with those who are outside the faith. You are to associate with believers. (**2 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:11**).

You are not to forsake the fellowship of believers. The Church is the ground and pillar of truth. It is your feeding centre. It is the place you are privileged to be sharpened. (**Proverbs 27:17; Proverbs 13:20; 2 Corinthians 2:2**). The company you keep determines your condition in life. Wrong company will have a negative influence on your faith.

Therefore, to keep your faith life in line, you must seek for and remain in relation with the brethren. You are not to forsake the assembly of believers.

7. Engage in His Service

Friend, you have been saved to serve. Jesus has found you; it is time for you to find your brothers and your neighbours. As you witness to others, you experience more grace for a genuine walk with Him. (**1 Corinthians 9:27; Ezekiel 3:17-21**).

Keep sharing the gospel with the lost; showing them the love of Jesus. Remember the Lord gave the word, and great is the company that publishes it. (**Psalm 68:11**).

8. Walk in Love

You were located by the love of God. It was the love of Jesus for your salvation that secured your transformation. It is now time to walk in love with all men, especially, those of the household of faith. (**Galatians 6:10**).

You are to walk in love. When you do, you enjoy divine presence. This is because God Himself is love. You are to demonstrate your love to God and to the brethren in practical terms.

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death”. (**1 John 3:14**).

When you walk in love with God as well as with the brethren, all things answer to you according to your desire. (**Romans 8:28**).

Love is the principal identity of the redeemed. It is what qualifies you as His disciple.

WATER BAPTISM PROOFS

These are samples of testimonies showing the acts of God from water baptism.

THROAT PAIN VANISHED

I am Bro. Adebola, I want to testify to the glory of God and to the shame of the enemy. Before I came for the water baptism I was having a severe throat

pain for sometimes now but I discovered after the baptism that the pain was vanished forever.

HEALING BY THE POWER OF GOD

I want to appreciate the faithfulness of God in healing me of cancer through water baptism. Before the baptism I was asking God to establish me this year as a man, which will enable me to take responsibility of my family but God told me, your healing is my concern now. I was healed instantly after coming out of the water from a severe pain of three months cancer, to God alone all the glory. Bro Kohol Obeeh Matthew.

MONTHLY PERIOD RESTORED

I am Sister Victoria Opawoye, I bless the name of the Lord for restoring my monthly period after four months. My monthly period suddenly seized flowing since March and I have been praying about it but nothing happened. Just before we went into the water for baptism I prayed again as I was told to do. Immediately I came out of the water I discovered that my period has been restored. I confirmed it when I was changing back to my dry clothes. Praise the Lord!

I HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

I thank God for His faithfulness in my life. I was a member of a secret cult before I became born again. Recently I have been experiencing some discomfort before I came for this ordinance and have been troubled in my spirit. But today, immediately I came out of the water after the baptism, I

heard a voice telling me I have now been accepted into His beloved. May His name be glorified! Bro. Abasifreke Friday E.

HEALING THROUGH WATER BAPTISM

I am Sister Agbo Jennifer, I want to thank God for healing me from the use of medicated glasses over the past 6 years. I can now read without the use of medicated glasses after water baptism.

About the author

Pastor **Paul A.** Magbadelo is an ordained minister with the Living Faith Church Worldwide. He has served both within and outside the country as a missionary under his Mentor, Bishop **David** Oyedepo. He is currently privileged to serve in one of the [Living Faith Churches in Nigeria](#). He is a prolific writer and speaker. He is married to Mrs. Kemi Magbadelo and are both blessed with children.