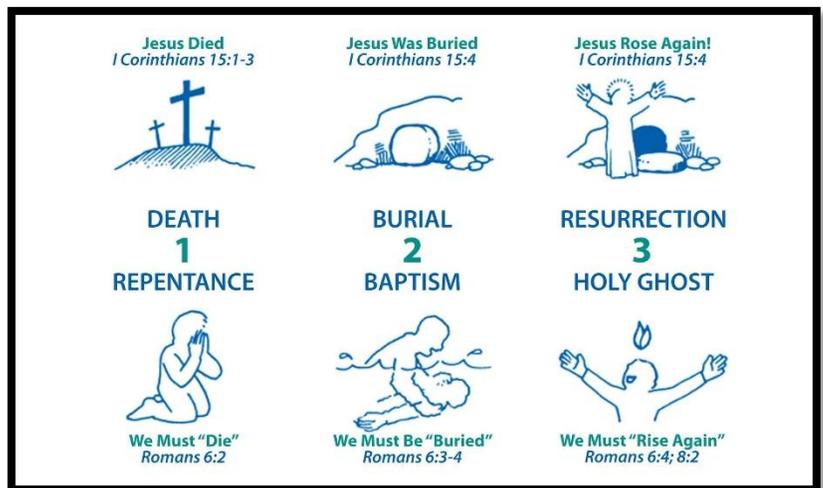




INTEGRITY SYNDICATE

The Apostles Doctrine

Three core aspects of becoming a Christian are (1) Repentance, (2) Baptism in Jesus Name, and (3) The gift of the Holy Spirit as expressed in 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." The Apostles Doctrine pertains to what the Apostles taught as the normative process initiation into the body of Christ.



I. Repentance

Here we take a detailed look at the apostolic standard of repentance as taught by Christ and his apostles. We are commanded to repent and believe the Gospel. Repentance is the first of three steps in conversion and initiation into the body of Christ.

The preaching of repentance

The most elementary doctrine of Christ is the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.¹ John, son of Zechariah and forerunner of Christ, proclaimed a baptism of repentance.² Jesus came proclaiming the gospel of God saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel"³. He sent his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God and to preach that all people should repent.⁴ And when he had been exalted to God's right hand, the Apostles proclaimed the same Gospel saying, "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."⁵ To the Gentiles as well as the Jews, God has granted the repentance that leads to life.⁶ For in the name of Jesus, repentance and forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁷ God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance.⁸ The Lord is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.⁹ Yet the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.¹⁰ The heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.¹¹

God will judge the world in righteousness

God commands all people everywhere to repent because he has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.¹² Unless we repent, regardless of severity of our sins, we will likewise perish with the wicked.¹³ To escape the wrath to come we must bear fruits in keeping with repentance.¹⁴ Even

¹ Hebrews 6:1, Acts 20:21

² Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3, Acts 13:24, 19:4

³ Mark 1:15, 9:42-43,45,47, Luke 4:43, 5:32, 8:10, 9:60, Acts 3:26

⁴ Mark 6:7,12, Luke 9:1-2, 10:11, 24:47

⁵ Acts 2:38

⁶ Acts 11:18

⁷ Luke 24:47

⁸ Romans 2:4

⁹ 2Peter 3:9

¹⁰ 2Peter 3:10

¹¹ 2Peter 3:7

¹² Acts 17:30-31

¹³ Luke 13:1-5

¹⁴ Luke 3:7-8

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now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.¹⁵ Jesus, is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit and with fire, holds the winnowing fork to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.¹⁶ Those of a hard and unrepentant heart are storing up wrath for themselves on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.¹⁷ He will render to each one according to his works; to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but to those who are contentious and do not obey the truth, but unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.¹⁸

Repentance is death to sin

That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies.¹⁹ In repentance we consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.²⁰ For all of us who die with Christ and are baptized into the name of Jesus are baptized into his death.²¹ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.²² Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.²³ Therefore, we are not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies.²⁴ And we are not to present ourselves to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and our members to righteousness.²⁵

Walk in the light

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.²⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.²⁷ If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.²⁸ We are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness.²⁹ But thanks be to God, for those who were once slaves of sin now have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which they were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have

¹⁵ Luke 3:9, 13:6-9, John 15:1-8, Revelation 20:15

¹⁶ Luke 3:15-17

¹⁷ Romans 2:5

¹⁸ Romans 2:7-8

¹⁹ Romans 15:36

²⁰ Romans 6:2,10

²¹ Romans 6:3

²² Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12, 2Corinthians 4:10-12

²³ Romans 6:8

²⁴ Romans 6:12

²⁵ Romans 6:13

²⁶ 1John 1:5

²⁷ 1John 1:6

²⁸ 1John 1:7

²⁹ Romans 6:16

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become slaves of righteousness.³⁰ As servants of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.³¹

Be dead to sin and alive in the Spirit

God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him.³² By believing, we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.³³ Christ has fulfilled the promise, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ It is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.³⁵ Truly, the Spirit we receive is our declaration of adoption as children of God, to whom we cry "Abba! Father!"³⁶ For if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.³⁷ We are washed, we are sanctified, we are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.³⁸ Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. It is the Spirit that gives life. Unless one is born of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.³⁹ The true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth.⁴⁰

Obedience to the end

In sanctification of the Spirit, God has purposed us for obedience to Jesus Christ and for the sprinkling of his blood. We are to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.⁴¹ Like newborn infants we are to grow up to salvation pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness in fighting the good fight of the faith and taking hold of the eternal life to which we were called.⁴² We should not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.⁴³ Heed the call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.⁴⁴ For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.⁴⁵ Many will be hated for his name's sake, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.⁴⁶

³⁰ Romans 6:17

³¹ Romans 6:22

³² Acts 5:32

³³ Ephesians 1:13-14

³⁴ Acts 11:16-17

³⁵ Luke 3:16

³⁶ Romans 8:15-16

³⁷ Romans 8:10

³⁸ 1Corinthians 6:11

³⁹ John 3:3-8

⁴⁰ John 4:23-24

⁴¹ 2Corinthians 7:1, Philipians 2:12

⁴² 1Timothy 6:11-12

⁴³ Hebrews 6:12

⁴⁴ Revelation 14:12, John 14:15,21,23

⁴⁵ Hebrews 3:14

⁴⁶ Mark 13:13, Revelation 2:26, James 1:12

Be not complacent

Jesus learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.⁴⁷ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.⁴⁸ In flaming fire, vengeance shall be inflicted on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁴⁹ God has called his people to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.⁵⁰ A person is justified by works and not by faith alone.⁵¹ Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.⁵² As the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.⁵³ If we have abandoned the love we had at first, Jesus will come and remove our place, unless we repent.⁵⁴ Many are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, therefore he will spit them out of his mouth. They say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that they are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Be zealous and repent.⁵⁵

The fruits of unrighteous vs the fruits of the Spirit

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.⁵⁶ The works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.⁵⁷ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous has no inheritance in the kingdom.⁵⁸ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord - Walk as children of light.⁵⁹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.⁶⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.⁶¹ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.⁶² The fruit

⁴⁷ Hebrews 5:8-9

⁴⁸ John 3:36

⁴⁹ 2Thessalians 1:8

⁵⁰ Romans 1:5

⁵¹ James 2:20,24

⁵² James 2:17,20,24

⁵³ James 2:26

⁵⁴ Revelation 2:4-5

⁵⁵ Revelation 3:15-19

⁵⁶ 1Corinthians 6:9-10

⁵⁷ Galatians 5:19-21

⁵⁸ Ephesians 5:4-5

⁵⁹ Ephesians 5:6-8

⁶⁰ Ephesians 5:11

⁶¹ 1John 3:10, 5:2

⁶² Galatians 5:25

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of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.⁶³

We are commanded to love

There is no other commandment greater than these: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'⁶⁴ Indeed, we are to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us and our reward will be great, and we will be sons of the Most High.⁶⁵ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law for the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."⁶⁶ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.⁶⁷ If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.⁶⁸ This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another.⁶⁹ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.⁷⁰ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love. Whoever does not love abides in death.⁷¹

Put off the old self and but on the new

We must no longer walk as those who walk in the futility of their minds and are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not truly the way of Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.⁷² According to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and has been made known to all nations; the command of our eternal God to bring about the obedience of faith.⁷³ Jesus came to open our eyes, so that we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in him.⁷⁴ For by grace we are saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.⁷⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have

⁶³ Galatians 5:22-23, 2Corinthians 6:6, 1Timothy. 6:11

⁶⁴ Deuteronomy 6:5, 11:13, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:27, Colossians 3:14

⁶⁵ Luke 6:27,35

⁶⁶ Romans 13:8, James 2:8, 1Peter 1:22, Galatians 5:14

⁶⁷ 1John 4:8-9

⁶⁸ 1John 4:12

⁶⁹ 1John 3:23, 13:34-35, 15:9-10,12,17, 1John 3:10-11

⁷⁰ 1Timothy 1:5

⁷¹ 1John 3:14

⁷² Ephesians 4:17-24

⁷³ Romans 16:25-26, 1John 5:2

⁷⁴ Acts 26:18

⁷⁵ Ephesians 2:8

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also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.⁷⁶ In Christ Jesus we are sons of God, through faith.⁷⁷ In faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.⁷⁸ Nothing counts for anything in Christ Jesus, but only faith working through love.⁷⁹

Righteousness by faith

One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.⁸⁰ The righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."⁸¹ The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.⁸² For it is impossible to please God without faith as it says, "but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."⁸³ Those who shrink back are destroyed, but those who have faith preserve their souls.⁸⁴ By rejecting a good conscience, some have made shipwreck of their faith and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.⁸⁵ Many hear the good news, but unless the message is united by faith with those who listen, it is of no benefit.⁸⁶ If anyone comes to Christ and does not hate even his own life, he cannot be his.⁸⁷ Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will save it.⁸⁸

Repent and turn again

Since Jesus has been exalted at the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, we are given the commandment, "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."⁸⁹ The promise is for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.⁹⁰ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.⁹¹

⁷⁶ Romans 5:1-2

⁷⁷ Galatians 3:26

⁷⁸ Galatians 5:5

⁷⁹ Galatians 5:6

⁸⁰ Luke 12:15

⁸¹ Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11

⁸² Romans 3:22

⁸³ Hebrews 10:38

⁸⁴ Hebrews 10:39

⁸⁵ 1 Timothy 1:19, 5:12

⁸⁶ Hebrews 4:2

⁸⁷ Luke 14:26

⁸⁸ Luke 17:33

⁸⁹ Acts 2:33, 36-38

⁹⁰ Acts 2:39

⁹¹ Acts 19:21

II. Baptism in Jesus Name

Here we provide the framework for understanding the significance and correct implementation of baptism in name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins – the second step in the apostolic formula for conversion and initiation in the body of Christ. The key understanding is that baptism represents burial with Christ and because Jesus was crucified for us and has been given all authority, we are to be baptized in his name. Additional rationale is provided for Jesus-name baptism in contrast to the later tradition using the trinitarian formulation of Matthew 28:19.

The ministry of John and the baptism of Jesus

The Law and the Prophets were until John - since then, the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.⁹² John, proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁹³ The people questioned whether he might be the Christ.⁹⁴ John asserted, that he baptized with water but the one who was coming after him will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.⁹⁵ After Jesus was baptized by John and was praying, the Holy Spirit descended and remained on him.⁹⁶ Subsequently Jesus began his ministry.⁹⁷ The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, because he had anointed him to preach the Gospel.⁹⁸ We know what happened throughout all Judea after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.⁹⁹ It is he on whom John saw the Spirit descend and remain who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.¹⁰⁰ Jesus said of his followers, “with the baptism I am baptized, you will be baptized.”¹⁰¹

The ministry of baptism through Jesus

Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside baptizing while John was also baptizing because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized.¹⁰² Eventually Jesus was baptizing and making more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples).¹⁰³ Jesus declared “I am the way, and the truth, and the life – No one comes to the Father except through me.”¹⁰⁴ The Gospel of John was written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name.¹⁰⁵ As it is written that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be

⁹² Luke 16:16

⁹³ Luke 3:2-3

⁹⁴ Luke 3:15, John 1:25-27

⁹⁵ Luke 3:16

⁹⁶ Luke 3:21-22

⁹⁷ Luke 3:23

⁹⁸ Luke 4:18

⁹⁹ Acts 10:37-38

¹⁰⁰ John 1:33

¹⁰¹ Mark 10:39

¹⁰² John 3:22-24

¹⁰³ John 4:1-2

¹⁰⁴ John 14:6

¹⁰⁵ John 20:31

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proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.¹⁰⁶ Jesus said, "all authority on heaven and on earth has been given to me" and "go and make disciples of all nations in my name."¹⁰⁷

Exhortations of Peter on Pentecost

When the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the day of Pentecost, Peter announced, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."¹⁰⁸ Those who heard it were cut to the heart and asked, "What shall we do?"¹⁰⁹ Peter said to them, "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."¹¹⁰ With many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."¹¹¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.¹¹² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.¹¹³ And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.¹¹⁴

Baptism of believers in Samaria

When those who heard Philip preach the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ and believed, they were baptized, both men and women.¹¹⁵ The apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God and sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit since they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹¹⁶ When they laid their hands on them they received the Holy Spirit.¹¹⁷

Peter commanded the Gentiles to be baptized in Jesus name.

When Peter preached to the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.¹¹⁸ The circumcised were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.¹¹⁹ Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"¹²⁰ He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.¹²¹

¹⁰⁶ Luke 24:46-47

¹⁰⁷ Matthew 28:18-19, Eusebius

¹⁰⁸ Acts 2:36

¹⁰⁹ Acts 2:37

¹¹⁰ Acts 2:38

¹¹¹ Acts 2:40

¹¹² Acts 2:41

¹¹³ Acts 2:42

¹¹⁴ Acts 2:47

¹¹⁵ Acts 8:12

¹¹⁶ Acts 8:14-16

¹¹⁷ Acts 8:16

¹¹⁸ Acts 10:44

¹¹⁹ Acts 10:45-46

¹²⁰ Acts 10:47

¹²¹ Acts 10:48

Paul's preaching of baptism in Jesus name

When Paul preached in Ephesus, he found some disciples and said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"¹²² When they responded that they were baptized into John's baptism, Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."¹²³ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹²⁴ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.¹²⁵

We are buried with Christ in baptism into death

Believers should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, with the expectation that they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.¹²⁶ All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.¹²⁷ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.¹²⁸ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.¹²⁹ In him we are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.¹³⁰ We are buried with him in baptism, in which we are also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³¹

Criticality of Baptism in Jesus name

We are not to be baptized in another name, as Christ is not divided, and no other was crucified for us.¹³² We are washed, we are sanctified, we are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.¹³³ Baptism correspond to the salvation of Noah through water and now saves us, 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.¹³⁴ The elementary doctrine of Christ is the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God and of the doctrine baptisms and of the laying on of hands.¹³⁵ Those who once have gone down into baptism and have tasted the gift that is from heaven and have received the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the power of the age that is to come – are expected to remain in repentance.¹³⁶ Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.¹³⁷ Jesus is the cornerstone and there is salvation in no one else, for there is no

¹²² Acts 19:2

¹²³ Acts 19:3-4

¹²⁴ Acts 19:5

¹²⁵ Acts 19:6

¹²⁶ Acts 2:38

¹²⁷ Romans 6:3

¹²⁸ Romans 6:4

¹²⁹ Romans 6:5

¹³⁰ Colossians 2:11

¹³¹ Colossians 2:12

¹³² 1 Corinthians 1:13

¹³³ 1 Corinthians 6:11

¹³⁴ 1 Peter 3:20-21

¹³⁵ Hebrews 6:1-2 (Lamsa Peshitta)

¹³⁶ Hebrews 6:4-6 (Lamsa Peshitta)

¹³⁷ Acts 2:38

other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.¹³⁸ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.¹³⁹

III. Gift of the Holy Spirit

Here we provide the framework for understanding the pattern and expectation of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit as the normative experience of conversion and initiation into the body of Christ – the third step of the Apostles doctrine exhibited in the ministry of Christ and as taught by the Apostles. This is evidenced by those who received the message in the book of Acts who were taught, “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.” (Acts 2:38) This article, essentially a concise arrangement of Scripture, provides a comprehensive summary of the key scriptural references spanning the New Testament relating to receiving and operating in the Holy Spirit.

The ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus

John the Baptist denied that he was the Christ but said the one who comes after him will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹⁴⁰ When Jesus had been baptized by John and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form.¹⁴¹ John bore witness that on Christ he saw the Spirit descend and remain.¹⁴² This was the evidence that Jesus was the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and that he is the Son of God.¹⁴³ Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, Jesus began his ministry when he was about 30 years old.¹⁴⁴ He declared, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”¹⁴⁵ After the baptism that John proclaimed, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.¹⁴⁶

We will be baptized with his baptism

Jesus said, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized.”¹⁴⁷ He also said, “whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”¹⁴⁸ If those who are evil know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask

¹³⁸ Acts 4:11-12

¹³⁹ Mark 16:16

¹⁴⁰ Luke 3:15-16

¹⁴¹ Luke 3:21-23

¹⁴² John 1:29-33

¹⁴³ John 1:33-34

¹⁴⁴ Luke 3:23

¹⁴⁵ Luke 4:18-19

¹⁴⁶ Acts 10:37-38

¹⁴⁷ Mark 10:37-40

¹⁴⁸ John 14:12

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him!¹⁴⁹ Jesus cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.¹⁵⁰ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”¹⁵¹ He said this about the Spirit, that those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.¹⁵² He said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive.”¹⁵³ The Helper, is the Holy Spirit that the father sends in the name of Jesus.¹⁵⁴ He said it was to the advantage of his disciples that he go away, for if he did not go away, the Helper would not come to them.¹⁵⁵

Tarry until you are endued with power from on high

When Jesus was raised for the dead and appeared to the apostles whom he had chosen, he told them to not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father which, “you heard from me: for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”¹⁵⁶ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place - and suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.¹⁵⁷ Divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them - and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.¹⁵⁸ Both Jews and proselytes, heard them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.¹⁵⁹ And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” - But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”¹⁶⁰

Peter’s preaching on Pentecost

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day – but this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel.”¹⁶¹ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.”¹⁶² Peter also said, “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses - being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”¹⁶³ And, “Let all the

¹⁴⁹ Luke 11:13

¹⁵⁰ John 7:37

¹⁵¹ John 7:38

¹⁵² John 7:39

¹⁵³ John 14:15-16

¹⁵⁴ John 14:26

¹⁵⁵ John 16:7

¹⁵⁶ Acts 1:2-5

¹⁵⁷ Acts 2:1-2

¹⁵⁸ Acts 2:3-4

¹⁵⁹ Acts 2:11

¹⁶⁰ Acts 2:12-13

¹⁶¹ Acts 2:15-16

¹⁶² Acts 2:17-18

¹⁶³ Acts 2:32-33

house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”¹⁶⁴ When they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”¹⁶⁵ Peter said to them, “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 - For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”¹⁶⁶ Those who received his word were baptized and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers - and awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.¹⁶⁷

Preaching Christ in the boldness of the Holy Spirit

As Peter continued, he preached, “What God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled - Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”¹⁶⁸ As the apostles continued in ministry and faced opposition they prayed for boldness saying, “Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”¹⁶⁹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.¹⁷⁰ Under additional opposition, Peter and the apostles said, “We must obey God rather than men - The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree - God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins - and we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”¹⁷¹

Conversion of the Samaritans

When Philip preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ in the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.¹⁷² The apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God and they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹⁷³ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁴ Acts 2:36

¹⁶⁵ Acts 2:37

¹⁶⁶ Acts 2:38-39

¹⁶⁷ Acts 2:41-43

¹⁶⁸ Acts 3:18-19

¹⁶⁹ Acts 4:17-30

¹⁷⁰ Acts 4:31

¹⁷¹ Acts 5:29-32

¹⁷² Acts 8:12

¹⁷³ Acts 8:14-16

¹⁷⁴ Acts 8:17

Gentiles receive the Holy Ghost

When Peter was called to preach the Gospel to the gentiles, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word and the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles – for they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.¹⁷⁵ Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” - and he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.¹⁷⁶ When relaying what had occurred to the believers in Jerusalem, he said, “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ - If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?”¹⁷⁷ When they heard these things they fell silent and glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”¹⁷⁸ Later at the Jerusalem council, Peter declared, “God who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.”¹⁷⁹ When making the case that the Gentile Christians should not be expected to follow the Law of Moses, Peter said, “Why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”¹⁸⁰

Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Paul

As Paul preached the Gospel, he found some disciples of John and said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”¹⁸¹ Their reply was that not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit and that they were baptized into John’s baptism.¹⁸² Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”¹⁸³ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.¹⁸⁴

The resurrection power of the Holy Spirit

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.¹⁸⁵ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.¹⁸⁶ You were washed, you were sanctified, you

¹⁷⁵ Acts 10:44-46

¹⁷⁶ Acts 10:46-48

¹⁷⁷ Acts 11:15-17

¹⁷⁸ Acts 11:18

¹⁷⁹ Acts 15:8-9

¹⁸⁰ Acts 15:10-11

¹⁸¹ Acts 19:1-2

¹⁸² Acts 19:2-3

¹⁸³ Acts 19:4

¹⁸⁴ Acts 19:5-6

¹⁸⁵ Rom 6:2

¹⁸⁶ Romans 6:3-4

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were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.¹⁸⁷ God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.¹⁸⁸ The Spirit helps us in our weakness - for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words – which searches hearts knowing what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.¹⁸⁹

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we abound in hope

The God of hope fills believers with joy and peace, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit they abound in hope.¹⁹⁰ Who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? - So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.¹⁹¹ Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.¹⁹² The testimony of believers are as a letter from Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God.¹⁹³ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God - not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.¹⁹⁴ He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among us does not do so by works of the law but by hearing with faith— just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”¹⁹⁵ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us— for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” — so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.¹⁹⁶ What Christ has accomplished to bring the Gentiles to obedience was by the power of signs and wonders - by the power of the Spirit of God.¹⁹⁷

You must be born again as a child of God

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God - unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.¹⁹⁸ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.¹⁹⁹ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’²⁰⁰ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”²⁰¹ He also said, “The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the

¹⁸⁷ 1 Corinthians 6:11

¹⁸⁸ Romans 5:5

¹⁸⁹ Romans 8:26-27

¹⁹⁰ Romans 15:13

¹⁹¹ 1 Corinthians 2:11

¹⁹² 1 Corinthians 2:12

¹⁹³ 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

¹⁹⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

¹⁹⁵ Galatians 3:5-6

¹⁹⁶ Galatians 3:13-14

¹⁹⁷ Romans 15:18-19

¹⁹⁸ John 3:3-5

¹⁹⁹ John 3:6

²⁰⁰ John 3:7

²⁰¹ John 3:8

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Father is seeking such people to worship him.²⁰² God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁰³ If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.²⁰⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.²⁰⁵

The Spirit is life - our adoption as sons

You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you - Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.²⁰⁶ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.²⁰⁷ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.²⁰⁸ It is not a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but the Spirit of adoption as children, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"²⁰⁹ The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.²¹⁰ The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed - for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.²¹¹ Those who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly waiting eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of the body.²¹²

Foundational truths

The starting point of the word of Christ includes the foundation of repentance from dead works and of the faith that is in God and of the doctrine of baptism and of the laying on of hands and of the resurrection from the dead and of eternal judgement for those who have gone down into baptism and have tasted the gift that is from heaven and have received the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the power of the age that is to come.²¹³ In Jesus we are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which we are also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.²¹⁴ Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - for the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.²¹⁵

²⁰² John 4:23

²⁰³ John 4:24

²⁰⁴ Romans 8:13

²⁰⁵ Romans 8:14

²⁰⁶ Romans 8:9

²⁰⁷ Romans 8:10

²⁰⁸ Romans 8:11

²⁰⁹ Romans 8:15

²¹⁰ Romans 8:16-17

²¹¹ Romans 8:18-19

²¹² Romans 8:23

²¹³ Hebrews 6:1-5 (Lamsa Peshitta)

²¹⁴ Colossians 2:11-12

²¹⁵ Acts 2:38-39

Speaking in tongues and praying in the Spirit

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.²¹⁶ The one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.²¹⁷ It is desirable that we all speak in tongues as the those who speak in a tongue builds themselves up.²¹⁸ When praying in a tongue, the spirit prays but the mind is unfruitful.²¹⁹ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.²²⁰ Paul thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than others.²²¹ Tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers.²²²

Prophecy in the Spirit

We should earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that we may prophesy.²²³ The one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.²²⁴ The one who prophesies builds up the church as the one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues.²²⁵ In church it is better to speak in an understandable way in order to instruct others, than many words in a tongue.²²⁶ Prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.²²⁷ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?²²⁸ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.²²⁹

Gifts of the Spirit

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.²³⁰ To each believer is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.²³¹ Through the Spirit various gifts are given including the utterance of wisdom, the utterance of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between spirits, various kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.²³² All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each believer individually as he wills.²³³ For just as the body is one and has many

²¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 14:1
²¹⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:2
²¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 14:4-5
²¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:14
²²⁰ 1 Corinthians 14:15
²²¹ 1 Corinthians 14:18
²²² 1 Corinthians 14:2
²²³ 1 Corinthians 14:1
²²⁴ 1 Corinthians 14:3
²²⁵ 1 Corinthians 14:4-5
²²⁶ 1 Corinthians 14:19
²²⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:22
²²⁸ 1 Corinthians 14:23
²²⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:24-25
²³⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
²³¹ 1 Corinthians 12:7
²³² 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
²³³ 1 Corinthians 12:11

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members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.²³⁴ For in one Spirit believers are baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and are made to drink of one Spirit.²³⁵ Do not quench the Spirit or despise prophecies, but test everything - holding fast what is good.²³⁶

Operating in the Holy Spirit

While the truth of the Word of God is our solid food, the Spirit of God is our drink.²³⁷ In Christ, we are to be filled with God receiving his Holy Breath.²³⁸ By the Spirit deposited in us, we become temples of the living God.²³⁹ The new life of the Spirit purifies us and compels us in all righteousness.²⁴⁰ Through Christ, God pours into us the living water of the Spirit, filling our hearts with love, giving us extraordinary peace with joy unspeakable.²⁴¹ We are not to serve under an old written code, but in the new life of the Spirit.²⁴² Nor shall we teach eloquent words of wisdom without the Spirit, lest the cross of Christ be diminished.²⁴³ Rather, if necessary, we shall tarry and wait to be given power from on High.²⁴⁴ The Holy Spirit shall be our driving force - transforming, interceding, and empowering us according to the will of God.²⁴⁵ The ministry of miraculous healing deliverance from demonic strongholds is carried out in the power of the Spirit.²⁴⁶ Prophecy comes not from a man's will, but when one speaks from God as the Holy Spirit provides divine unction and carries him along.²⁴⁷ Signs and wonders are made manifest by the power of the Spirit.²⁴⁸ Our boldness and inspiration is to be vitalized by this breath of God.²⁴⁹ We are to manifest the divine giving witness to God's truth by his power.²⁵⁰ We are not to be of dry religion, but rather a living faith – partaking of the Spirit of God that comes through Christ.²⁵¹

²³⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:12

²³⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:13

²³⁶ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

²³⁷ John 4:10-14, 1Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 5:18

²³⁸ John 6:63, Acts 2:32-33, Acts 8:14-17, Galatians 3:14, 1John 4:13

²³⁹ 1Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Ephesians 2:22

²⁴⁰ John 6:63, Acts 15:8-9, Romans 8:10-14, 1Corinthians 6:11, 2Thessalonians 2:13, Galatians 5:5, Titus 3:5

²⁴¹ Romans 5:5, 8:6, 14:17, 15:13, Galatians 5:22-23

²⁴² Acts 7:51, Romans 7:6, 2Corinthians 3:3-6, Galatians 3:2-3, 5:22

²⁴³ 1 Corinthians 1:17, 2:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 5:19

²⁴⁴ Luke 11:13, 24:47-49, John 14:12-13, Acts 2:4-5, 4:29-31, Jude 1:19-20

²⁴⁵ Romans 8: 26-27, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Ephesians 3:16

²⁴⁶ Acts 4:29-31, 10:37-39

²⁴⁷ 2Peter 1:21, Revelation 1:10

²⁴⁸ Acts 4:29-31, Romans 15:19, Galatians 3:5, Hebrews 2:4

²⁴⁹ Acts 4:29-31, Romans 12:11, Luke 12:11-12, Matthew 10:19

²⁵⁰ Acts 4:29-31, 1Corinthians 2:1-5, 1Thessalonians 1:5-6

²⁵¹ 1Corinthians 10:1-4, Acts 2:1-39