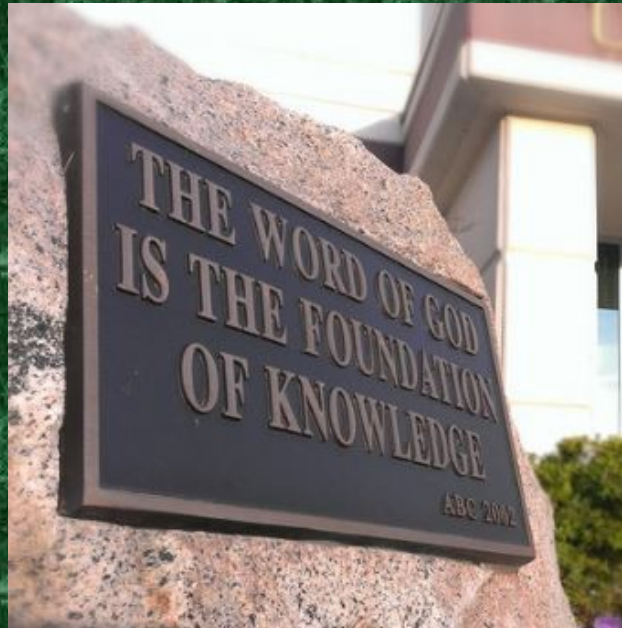


Weeknight Bible Discussion

September 8, 2022

Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion [\(Booklet\)](#)

United Church of God, SF Bay Area



Session Goals:

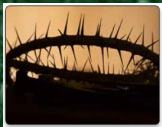
1. Fellowship in a Spiritually Uplifting focus in God's Word
2. Hear from All Participants as equally as possible
3. Discuss / Highlight / Collect Wisdom... In a God Led Discussion.

Booklet Section: Why Be Baptized? PART 2 [Pgs. 36 - 38]

Why should a Christian seek to be baptized? How should one be baptized, and by whom? What does baptism symbolize? All these are key questions, because baptism is a crucially key step we must take if we are to be truly converted. [Cont. 36 - 38]

How Baptism's Meaning and Method Are Related [Pg 34] What is the correct method of baptism—sprinkling, pouring, immersion or some other technique? No other form of baptism except full immersion in water can depict a true burial. Baptism represents the burial of the old self.

We Must Count the Cost [Pg 37] Baptism represents the most important commitment we can make. Baptism represents our conscious, deliberate commitment to put God above everything else regardless of the cost.



Booklet section Links...

<https://www.uceg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/transforming-your-life-the-process-of-conversion/why-be-baptized>

<https://www.uceg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/transforming-your-life-the-process-of-conversion/how-baptisms-meaning-and-method-are-related>

<https://www.uceg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/transforming-your-life-the-process-of-conversion/we-must-count-the-cost>

Why Be Baptized? Scriptures: 1 of 4

How God imparts His Spirit:

Acts 8:14-17 NKJV Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, (15) who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (16) For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (17) Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Heb 6:1-2 NKJV Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (2) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Act 8:17 NKJV Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Act 19:6 NKJV And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

2Ti 1:6 NKJV Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Rom 10:14-15 NKJV How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Why Be Baptized? Scriptures: 2 of 4

How Baptism's Meaning and Method Are Related:

Joh 3:23 NKJV Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.

Mat 3:16 NKJV When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Act 8:38 NKJV So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Rom 6:1-6 NKJV What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (3) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Why Be Baptized? Scriptures: 3 of 4

We Must Count the Cost:

Luk 14:27-32 NKJV And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— (29) lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, (30) saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' (31) Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? (32) Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

Luk 14:33 NKJV So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Heb 13:5 NKJV Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

Php 1:6 NKJV being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

2Ti 4:8 NIV Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Why Be Baptized? Scriptures: 4 of 4

We Must Count the Cost:

Rom 8:18 NKJV For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Luk 9:62 NKJV But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Heb 2:1-3 NIV - We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

Discussion... Why Be Baptized? Part 2

~How God imparts His Spirit ~ How Baptism's Meaning and Method Are Related ~ We Must Count the Cost~

- > At baptism we receive two gifts... 1) sins forgiven & 2) with the laying of hands the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- > It is all a process... we need to come to the realization that we NEED to be baptized to have our sins forgiven, receive God's Spirit and to press forward to overcome our sinful nature.
- > We have to be TOTALLY immersed in water... representing a death, burial and new life when we come up out of that watery grave. It also evidences our faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master. **Romans 6:1-6**
- > When we are baptized we are set apart for God and His purposes... and as Children of God.
- > A major commitment... being fully committed to forsaking everything else and walking in a singular purpose in God's Way (NO turning back)!!!
- > Three steps of immersion... 1st... immersed in this world 2nd God calls us to repentance and we exit the world through baptism... 3rd then being fully immersed in God's Way through His Spirit.
- > We must be baptized and have the laying on of hands by a true minister of Jesus Christ following the pattern outlined in scripture. **Romans 10:14-15**
- > A maturity level in order to be capable of "counting the cost" is necessary in order to be baptized.
- > When we are baptized we are not baptized into an organization but into the spiritual organism of the Body of Jesus Christ.
- > Even though baptism is a huge commitment and change in our life... it really is only just the beginning of our journey toward what God wants us to eventually become.
- > With our outward commitment and the receipt inwardly of God's Spirit... God is there with us for everything we will face. **Galatians 2:20**
- > Have a negative view of Counting the Cost?... think about what will be missed out on if you don't commit! **1 Corinthians 2:9** NKJV But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM "

Article / Reference / Sermon Recommendations (w/ url links):

TAG! You're IT!

"Baptism"

> UCG Sermon “The Necessity of Baptism”

By Ben Massie <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/the-necessity-of-baptism>

> UCG Sermon “A Person of Integrity”

By Troy Phelps <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShwuE5H7U2w>

> UCG Sermon “Who, What, and Why is Man?”

By Mr. Shabi <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/who-what-and-why-is-man>

> UCG Sermon “Do You Really Trust God?”

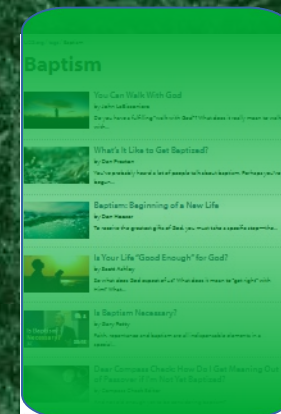
By Aaron Creech <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/do-you-really-trust-god-0>

> UCG Sermon “The Concealing & Revealing of God's Purpose for Us While Living by Faith”

By Charles Melear <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/the-concealing-revealing-of-gods-purpose-for-us-while-living-by-faith>

> Facebook video “Listen For It!”

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/760142538538423?fs=e&s=TIeQ9V>



~ The End ~
& Spiritually Uplifting
FELLOWSHIP :-)