

Buried to Rise, Filled to Overflow

Introduction: Continuing to Build on the Foundation

The series continues through Hebrews 6:1–2, having already covered repentance from dead works and faith towards God. Today's pillar is the doctrine of baptisms. There is much misunderstanding in the wider church on this — most believers think only of water, but the Bible reveals much more.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." — Hosea 4:6

Believers are not destroyed by the enemy alone but by what they do not know — many love Jesus and attend church faithfully, yet walk in only a fraction of what God has made available.

Our Anchor: Hebrews 6:1–2

"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundations of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of the laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement." — Hebrews 6:1–2

The doctrine of baptisms is foundational because it speaks to how God works transformation — turning a person bound, broken, and living for self into someone free, whole, and living for Christ.

What Does the Word "Baptism" Really Mean? — More Than Water

The word comes from the Greek *baptizo*, meaning "to completely immerse, to fully submerge, to entirely cover over." A standard dictionary gives two meanings:

- A ceremony or sacrament of admitting a person into Christianity by immersion into water, as a symbol of washing away sin and of spiritual purification.
- Any experience or ordeal that initiates, tests, or purifies.

The second meaning is the one we miss. Baptism is a principle in the heart, not just a ceremony in the flesh — the principle of complete surrender to anything God wants to work in your life. That is why Hebrews 6 says "baptisms" — plural.

The Three Stages of the Principle of Baptism

Identify — You recognise the process and the need. The Holy Spirit shows you the area where you need to be immersed and changed.

Transition — You submit to the process fully and completely until it is finished. You go under.

The New Position — You emerge changed. Not improved — transformed.

The Six Baptisms

1. Repentance — A deep work of the Holy Spirit that brings true conviction of sin, leading to a complete turning around of the heart and mind.

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." — 2 Corinthians 7:10

2. Water Baptism (The Believer's Baptism) — The public, outward act of obedience where we are buried with Christ in the water and raised to walk in newness of life.

"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

3. Holy Spirit — The immersion into the power and Presence of God that empowers us to be witnesses, with signs and wonders following.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8

4. Fire — The purifying fire of God that burns away the chaff in our lives, refining us like silver and gold.

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff"

with unquenchable fire." — Matthew 3:11–12

5. His Body — Being placed by God into a specific local church family, where we grow, are equipped, and find our function.

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." — Ephesians 4:15–16

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." — 1 Corinthians 12:27

6. Suffering — The seasons where our faith is tested and our character is forged.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." — James 1:2–3

The focus today is on water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit — the doorway into our walk with Jesus.

Part One: Water Baptism — The Believer's Baptism

"Peter replied, '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

Christian baptism is the outward act of obedience by which the believer fulfils the inward righteousness already enjoyed in the heart through faith in Christ's atoning death and resurrection. After giving one's life to Jesus, water baptism is the next step.

At Oakhill, we have all witnessed people walk down to the water carrying years of brokenness, addiction, shame, and bondage — and emerge as new creations with a new countenance, joy, freedom, and identity. Marriages have been restored. Young people have come up with such hunger that they have gone on to lead others to Christ.

What Happens When You Go Under the Water

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." — Romans 6:3–4

Three things happen when you enter the water:

You identify with Christ's death. You acknowledge that the old you — living for self, walking in sin, separated from God — needs to die.

You transition through the waters. You step in. You go under. In that moment, you are buried with Christ and faith lays hold of resurrection power.

You emerge as a new creature. You come up clothed in something new.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" — 2 Corinthians 5:17

Heaven responds to your obedience. Spiritual realities take place in the unseen realm that will manifest for the rest of your days.

Part Two: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

My Own Journey

Personal story

The Promise of Another

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you." — John 14:16–17

The Greek word for "Counsellor" is *Parakletos* — one called alongside. Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby.

Who Can Receive?

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon specific people for specific purposes — Elijah, Samuel, Samson, David. But Joel saw something far greater for us today:

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." — Joel 2:28–29

When you were born again, the Holy Spirit was given as the seal of sonship. But there is more — a fuller experience, a baptism, an immersion, where the Holy Spirit comes upon you with power.

The Purpose: Power to Be Witnesses

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a private spiritual high — it is empowerment to be a witness for Jesus in your home, workplace, school, neighbourhood, and to the nations.

Wait, Ask, Seek, Knock

Just before His ascension, Jesus gave an unusual instruction:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." — Acts 1:4–5

They obeyed. They waited. When the Spirit fell at Pentecost, three thousand were saved in one day. Ordinary fishermen became fearless apostles.

This is something we cannot manufacture. Jesus tells us how to receive with three words:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." — Luke 11:9–10

Asking — a humble posture that recognises your need and your right as a son or daughter to receive.

Seeking — a determined mindset that will not give up. A serious seeker keeps pressing in.

Knocking — a continuous, persistent faith that does not withdraw or grow weary.

The Gifts of the Spirit — Many Gifts, One Spirit

When people hear "baptism of the Holy Spirit," they often jump to tongues. But tongues is not the only sign:

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines." — 1 Corinthians 12:7–11

You might carry supernatural wisdom, mountain-moving faith, healing, knowledge, prophecy, discernment, tongues — or several of these. Don't put God in a box. Don't measure your infilling by someone else's gift. Don't chase the sign — chase the Giver.

What Really Matters: Love

Right in the middle of Paul's teaching on the gifts, he writes one of the most piercing chapters in the Bible:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing." — 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

You can have every gift on the list, and without love, you are nothing more than noise. The power is the vehicle — love is the destination. The gifts are tools. Love is the mission. God baptises us in His Spirit so His love can flow through us to a broken world.

The Altar Call

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in your own strength. It was meant to be a life of complete immersion — fully covered by Christ, fully filled with His Spirit, fully empowered to love and serve a world that desperately needs Him.

"I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it." — John 17:14–16

We are in this world, but not of it. Yet many of us are becoming overwhelmed by the cares, opinions, and noise of this world.

We are being charged by the wrong source — fed ideas about success, failure, time, money, and hope from a station that was never meant to power us.

Today, we need to unplug. Become quiet before God. Rest in His presence. Hear His voice again.

If you have never decided to serve Jesus as Lord and Saviour, today is the day to unplug from the charging station of this world and plug into the true power source: the Holy Spirit. If you are serving God but have plugged back into the world's source, become quiet and reconnect with Jesus — be refilled with His Spirit.

The baptism pool is open. The prayer room is ready. You came in as one person — you can walk out a completely different one.

Will you ask Him? Will you step in? Will you be filled — so that He can love a broken world through you?