



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

Outreach Ministry Of The People Of Joy Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

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Feb - Mar 2014

I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER

By Vince Dorazio

The word Baptism comes from the Greek word 'baptizo' which means to wash; cleanse; immerse.

The Gospels tell us that John (the Baptist) was daily baptizing people in the Jordan River with these words, **"I Baptize you with water for repentance, but One mightier than I, whose sandals I am unworthy to unfasten, He will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!"** (Matt 3:11)

Why were so many people coming to the River Jordan to be baptized by John?

In the Old Testament books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, there are many Laws referring to the washing and cleansing by the priests and the Hebrew people. For instance, in Leviticus chapters 13, 14 and 17, the law required that all people with skin lesions, boils and infections be inspected by the priests. The priests would either declare them "clean" or "unclean". If they were declared "unclean" the person would be quarantined for seven (7) days outside the camp until they could be inspected again. When the person was declared "clean"

by the priest the person would then go wash themselves and their clothes in the river before returning inside the camp area.

Another example is found in the book of Numbers chapter 19. This chapter speaks of the sacrifice of a red heifer for the purification of all the people.

"Then somebody who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them in a clean place outside the camp. There they are to be kept to prepare purification water for the Israelite community. This is a purification offering. The one who has gathered up the ashes of the heifer shall also wash his garments and be unclean until evening. This is a permanent statute, both for the Israelites and for the alien residing among them." (Num. 19:9-10)

As you can see, the Israelites of Jesus' day were no strangers to the Baptism of Repentance. They came to the River Jordan in large numbers to make atonement for their sinful life style and to purify themselves in the waters of baptism.

Holy Spirit Fire



Remember what John said, **"I baptize you with water for repentance."** He also said, **"But One mightier than I, whose sandals I am unworthy to unfasten, He will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!"** This indicated that there are two (2) Baptisms; one with water (repentance; cleansing), the other of the Holy Spirit (fire). This is what Jesus told the Pharisee Nicodemus, **"Jesus answered, Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit"** (John 3:5)

Many times in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal we speak about being **"Baptized In The Holy Spirit"**. When we tell others about it, you may

hear a response back that sounds something like this. "I was already baptized in the church when I was a baby." Most Christians were baptized as infants and confirmed their infant baptism as teenagers. In many cases the Holy Spirit Fire may lay dormant for many years.

When Catholic Charismatic Renewal people speak about being baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are referring to receiving the extra ordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit; gifts of prophecy, healing, teaching, exhortation, tongues and interpretation.

Catechism Of The Catholic Church (Vatican)

Section Two, Chapter One, Article 1 (1226-1229) reads as follows:

"From the very day of Pentecost the Church has celebrated and administered holy Baptism. Indeed St. Peter declares to the crowd astounded by his preaching: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) The apostles and their collaborators offer Baptism to anyone who believed in Jesus: Jews, the God-fearing, pagans. Always, Baptism is seen as connected with faith: **"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household," St. Paul declared to his jailer in Philippi. And the narrative continues, the**

jailer "was baptized at once, with all his family. (Acts 16:31-33)

According to the Apostle Paul, the believer enters through Baptism into communion with Christ's death, is buried with him, and rises with him: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. The baptized have "put on Christ." Through the Holy Spirit, Baptism is a bath that purifies, justifies, and sanctifies. Hence Baptism is a bath of water in which the "imperishable seed" of the Word of God produces its life-giving effect.

"I Baptize you with water for repentance, but One mightier than I, whose sandals I am unworthy to unfasten, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!" (Matt 3:11)

What Does This Mean For You?

Baptism is necessary if we want to become followers of Christ. But we need more than infant water baptism. We need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire!

Yes, we must do more than repent, do more than merely say we want to be okay before God. Our lives must change. Our direction must change, our priorities must change.

It is not possible for a person to emerge from baptism and live life the same way if they truly become Christ-centered.

Being Baptized in the Holy Spirit is more than a ceremony, or a weekend, or a seven week spiritual program. Being Baptized in the Holy Spirit means the beginning of living a New Life in the Spirit! As followers and disciples of Jesus we are to evangelize and bring others into this New Life of the renewal of Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire!

As Pope Frances reminds us that **"as Catholics, we must evangelize other Catholics"** He reminds us of Jesus' final instruction and commission recorded in St. Matthew's Gospel:

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

(Matthew 28: 18-20)

Prayer Request

Send us your individual prayer request and we will add your request to our daily prayer list. Also please remember to add to your daily prayers all those in need of your daily prayers. Send your request to:

**New Life CRM
6253 Penn Avenue South
Richfield MN. 55423**

Please also pray for the New Life Renewal Ministry that we may do all that God asks of us.

Thank you for your support and letters to New Life Renewal Ministry. We appreciate and enjoy receiving your letters of encouragement. We look forward to your continued support. May our Lord Jesus continue to bless you abundantly with His NEW LIFE!

Notice

Starting with this issue, we will be offering a series of articles titled "**Prayer Group Workshop**". We will focus on the basic fundamentals of general participation and leadership in a Catholic Charismatic Prayer Meeting.

The articles will include "Do's and Do Not's", Attendance, Singing, Praise, Worship, Sharing, Scripture, Testimony, plus more other valuable information for a successful Charismatic Prayer Meeting.

CUT AND SAVE

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP WORKSHOP #1

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The main function of a Charismatic Prayer Meeting is for Christian people to come together to joyfully celebrate their New Life of who Jesus is in their lives guided by the Holy Spirit.

My first encounter to a Charismatic Prayer Meeting came shortly after I made a "personal renewal" of who Jesus is and accepted Him as my personal Savior. I had been involved in local politics and met Bob at a local convention. I learned that Bob and I were parishioners at the same church, and his daughter and my daughter were classmates at the parish school. I began telling him about my new found relationship with Jesus. Then Bob asked me to go with him to a "charismatic" prayer meeting at St. Albert's Church in South Minneapolis. I was familiar with St. Albert's Church. My wife grew up there, and we were married there. I also knew a few of the priests on a personal level, but I had never heard of a "charismatic" prayer meeting there.

The meeting started at 8 PM. Bob wanted to get there early to get a good parking spot. We got there about 7:20 and went to the Social Hall. There were about 30-40 people already there setting up chairs (about 250-300). We were greeted by a few people with big smiles. They welcomed us and gave Bob a big hug, "praising the Lord!" A small group of people were by the kitchen setting up refreshments. The chairs were set up in a circle, and people were placing song books on every third chair. Several musicians were tuning their guitars, key board, etc. More people began filtering in greeting one another with big joyful smiles and hugging one another. They began finding their way to the circle of folding chairs. I sat in the back row with Bob. Then everyone got quiet as the leader announced the first song.

The first few songs were joyful and uplifting with most everyone standing and clapping their hands to the music, some with their hands raised. I suddenly noticed that as more people were coming in they put up another two rows of chairs behind us. The singing continued for another 15-20 more minutes and suddenly they were all singing words that I didn't understand. The sound seemed to be one solitary note in perfect pitch and harmony. No one was louder than anyone else. Suddenly it got quiet and a few people gave what sounded like an instruction for the group; almost as if they were speaking as if they were God Himself.

The leader, Jack, encouraged the group to be more evangelistic in sharing the Gospel with other people. About three people shared what God was doing in their lives, then more songs and praise. The meeting lasted about three hours and no one wanted to go home.

I realized that the Charismatic Prayer Meetings are a time to come together in joyful celebration of what Jesus is doing in our daily lives and then sharing that with one another.

PURPOSE: TO CELEBRATE THE JOY OF THE LORD TOGETHER AS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT; AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBERS DAILY (ACTS 2:46-47)



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**Twin City Area Wide
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
PRAISE & WIRSHIP MEETING**

**Thursday, 7:30 PM
March 27, 2013**

**St. Albert's Catholic Church
3200 East 29 St. Mpls
(Enter 32 Ave side door)**

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**Your donations are needed to
continue New Life Renewal
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your prayers and financial
support.**

**May our God continue to bless you
abundantly with His New Life!**

Thank You

**PEOPLE OF JOY
CHARISMATIC PRAYER
MEETINGS
THURSDAYS 7:30 PM**

**St Albert's Catholic Church
3200 East 29 Street, Mpls MN
(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)**

**Come join with us to proclaim
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**