

beams from the Sun of Righteousness.

The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God. Love to God, zeal for his glory, was the controlling power in our Savior's life. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. "We love, because He first loved us." I John 4:19, R.V. In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life, and sheds a refining influence on all around....

Obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love. The law of God is an expression of His very nature; it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. If our hearts are renewed in the likeness of God, if the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life? When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, "I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Hebrews 10:10. And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life?" - Steps to Christ, pages 62-66.

## **THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS IN BAPTISM**

**Then comes Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and came Thou to me? Matthew 3:13, 14.**

When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized before in Him a purity of character that he had never perceived in any man. The very atmosphere of His presence was holy and awe-inspiring. Among the multitudes that had gathered about him at the Jordan, John had heard dark tales of crime, and had met souls bowed down with the burden of myriad sins; but never had he come in contact with a human being from whom there breathed an influence so divine. All this was in harmony with what had been revealed to John regarding the Messiah. Yet he shrank from granting the request of Jesus. How could he, a sinner, baptize the Sinless One? And why should He who needed no repentance submit to a rite that was a confession of guilt to be washed away?

As Jesus asked for baptism, John drew back, exclaiming, "I have need to be baptized of Thee, and came Thou to me?" With firm yet gentle authority, Jesus answered, "Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness." And John, yielding, led the Savior down into the Jordan, and buried Him beneath the water. "And straightway coming up out of the water," Jesus "saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him."

Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us." - The Desire of Ages, pages 110, 111.

Christ was wholly righteous; yet He, the Savior of the world, gave man an example by Himself taking the steps which He requires the sinner to take to become a child of God, and heir of Heaven.

If Christ, the spotless and pure Redeemer of man, condescended to take the steps necessary for the sinner to take in conversion, why should any, with the light of truth shining upon their pathway, hesitate to submit their hearts to God, and in humility confess that they are sinners, and show their faith in the atonement of Christ by words and actions, identifying themselves with those who profess to be His followers? There will ever be some who do not live out their profession, whose daily lives show them to be anything but Christians. But should this be a sufficient reason for any to refuse to put on Christ by baptism into the faith of His death and resurrection?" - Testimonies, Vol. IV, pages 40, 41.

## **THE VALUE OF BAPTISM**

### **The Commission**

Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19.

### **Likened to Death and Resurrection**

Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death.

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. 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. Romans 6:3-6.

### **Expression of Faith**

He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned. Mark 16:16. 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 you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38.

The commission which Christ gave to the disciples, just prior to His ascension to heaven, was, "Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And, LO, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word." The commission reaches those who shall believe on His word through His disciples. And all who are called of God to stand as ambassadors for Him, should take the lessons upon practical godliness given them by Christ in His word, and teach them to the people." - Testimonies, Vol. IV, page 401.

Both of these important events, the crucifixion and the resurrection, have their memorials. By partaking of the Lord's supper, the broken bread and the fruit of the vine, we show forth the Lord's death until He comes. The scenes of His sufferings and death are thus brought fresh to our minds. The resurrection of Christ is commemorated by our being buried with Him by baptism, and raised out of the watery grave, in the likeness of His resurrection, to live in newness of life." - Early Writings, page 217.

I will seek redemption through Christ, for in no one else is there salvation. To be redeemed through Him is to become like unto Him; to be pure in mind, and to do good; to be free from sin, and to live for God alone." - FREDERICA ROWAN.

Our Master walked each path of life,  
The stormy and the fair;  
And so, wherever our path may be, We'll always find Him there.  
WILLIAM E. MYERS

## **HOW TO GROW IN GRACE**

### **a. Live a Life of Prayer**

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. Acts 10:2.

### **b. Study the Bible Daily**

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Acts 17:11.

### **c. Yield to the Holy Spirit**

When He had said this, He breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive you the Holy Ghost. John 20:22. Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30.

### **d. Work for Your Fellow Men**

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27.

### **e. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus**

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2.