

## Baptismal Confession

Dear David and all the beloved brethren with you there in Nova Scotia, I have been greatly concerned about the great trials you are experiencing there. My desire is that Salvation would come to you and you would be set free to fulfill the purpose for which you were created. Let me say this as earnestly as I can, there are many, countless thousands, even millions, who have only experienced a temporary moral reformation, as Yahshua spoke of in Mt 12:43, and not true repentance the Holy Spirit speaks of, as in Acts 2 1:18. These thousands Yahshua speaks of did not repent and did not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed. Paul encountered many people of this type. Only by encountering the gospel, Yahshua taught His disciples, can one come to repentance (Mk 10:29-30). Those thousands who have “been saved” at such revivals and crusades or modern evangelistic meetings never come to the point after they were saved to be “for” the Lord (Mt 12:30). They continue to produce rotten fruit (Mt 12:33). These modern evangelists could not produce the fruit of the kingdom (Mt 21:43). There was no context whatsoever to obey the gospel Yahshua taught His apostles (Mk 10:29 30). One can pass on no more than he himself has received. There is only one true gospel but many false.

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Peter with many other words kept on exhorting them, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Peter preached to them about what this baptism was, and what would happen at baptism (Acts 2:40). So then, those who had received his word were baptized. And as a result of this baptism which Peter took much time to explain (we do not know his exact words; all we see is the results which took place in the lives of those hearing these words), we see what happened in verses 42 47. We do know that in true baptism, one must first of all: Repent, then go into the water confessing the only Name of Salvation for the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit will be given to them (verse 38).

Peter labored to explain to them, in verse 38, just what would happen to them if they obeyed him. He told them in many other words what would be expected of them. He said that when they went down into the water in repentance, confessing the name, of Yahshua Messiah, they would be forgiven of their sins. The people were sorry, cut to the heart, for crucifying the Lord. Peter said that as a result of being sorry they would repent, as a result of repenting they were to be baptized, as a result of being baptized they were to be forgiven for their sins, as a result of being forgiven they were to be given the gift of the Holy Spirit, as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit they were “continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching” (verse 42), as a result of the apostles’ teaching “they were together, and had all things in common” (verse 44), and as a result of having all things in common, “they began selling their property and possessions and were equally sharing them with all, as anyone might have need” (verse 45). (The truly baptized aren’t concerned any longer about their possessions, or even wondering if they might need to get a court order to get their things back if they ever decide to leave the brotherhood.) This was the emphasis and the outcome of Peter’s message, as a response to those who had asked, “What must we do to be saved?” And after hearing all that Peter had to say, it says (verse 41), “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.” This was the beginning of the new Israel, baptized in His Blood. Peter told them that they must be saved from this evil and abnormal generation. Gal 1:4 — Paul preached the same message, to deliver us out of the present evil generation or world order. Peter told them that in the water they would be buried with their entire former life and all its ties and involvements. They would be plunged deep into Messiah, the Crucified, the water was like His Blood, and in this they would be cutting off by the cross all demon powers ruling this world age and demonstrating the victory of the cross over them. In coming out of the water they would be the possessors of new life in Messiah, having received the very Holy Spirit to empower them to live in the victory and strength of the Risen One. Peter said that they would make an entire break with all and everything which would keep them from wholly devoting their lives to their brethren in whom they were now a part, having become bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh. Whoever made this break broke with the entire status quo and was from then on committed to live and to die for the cause he embraced, in such a consecration unto death. They were now pledged to die and to

**stand absolutely for Yahshua in truth and power. In Peter's message that day, there was such a sharp break due to the fresh word of gospel truth from the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit that in obedience (confession) made in baptism, they came into such grave conflicts with their relatives that households were dissolving, whole families were split, engagements were cancelled, and marriages destroyed. They would be hated by all the world as the Lord Yahshua promised (Jn 15:18-21). So totally did those first believers receive this word that they turned the world upside down. If the gospel we preach does not do this, then we are not preachers empowered by this same Holy Spirit. And if those who have gone into the water do not have this same response we know they did not "get possessed" with this same Holy Spirit. A quote concerning the early church was "Love that ultimately surrenders all and every thing was so much the hallmark by which believers were recognized, that the decline of the love was considered tantamount to the loss of the Spirit of Messiah. Urged by this love, men sold themselves into debtors' prison and into slavery for the sake of others. Nothing was too costly for the disciples of Messiah when the common interest of the surrendered brother hood was at stake, so that they developed an incredible activity in the works of love." (Early Christians, p. 23.)**

Those who were commanded to live quiet and peaceful lives have continual conflicts with the whole world order

It seems that Peter on the day of Pentecost preached Messiah and Him crucified. With many other words, he told them just what baptism was and what were the requirements which accompany believing in the Messiah with all their hearts. Even as Philip preached Messiah to the eunuch in Acts 8, he preached to him the requirements of being baptized, for we see the response he had to Philip's message (Acts 8:36). Though we don't know Philip's exact words, we can know without doubt that he was speaking of the requirements of baptism by the eunuch's response, just the same as with Peter's message on Pentecost. Yahshua said in Mark 16:16 that if one does not receive this baptism they are absolutely not believers but still in unbelief, and what the signs were of those who believed. What does it really mean to believe? To surrender your life to the saving power of Yahshua, being redeemed from every lawless deed, and to be purified for Himself by His Holy Spirit, through the ministry of workers in the Body of Messiah (Eph 4:11). Speak, exhort, reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you (Titus 2:14-15). Verse 15 is speaking about the workers bringing this discipline to the flock, but in accordance to 1 Pet 5.

We then are compelled by the Holy Spirit to stand and speak to the ones who have repented by the ministry of the gospel, exactly what baptism is and what they can expect as its results. They must know what will happen as they go into the water, confessing the Name of Yahshua, believing in Him with all their heart, convicted by the Holy Spirit and cut to the heart. No less than this conviction will bring about God's purpose on earth in this age — the twelve tribes of Israel.

Dear David, in Mt 12:30, it says, "Whoever is not with me or for me." That means completely, excessively, exhaustively, taking total and absolute identity with Me, as Mt 10:32 says, in your total identity with Him you confess His name, but anything less than this is denying Him. Rev 3:5 — "I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Mt 10:33 — "But whosoever shall deny me — disown me by not taking identity with Me — My Body." Mk 8:38 — "Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words ...", by not taking up his cross and following Him (Mk 8:34). But Heb 13:13 — "Let us go outside the camp, bearing His shame." Dear David, are you ashamed of the Messiah that you were baptized into?

Lk 16:18 — David Jones had revelation about people coming out of the religious system — "Baptist church, etc.", and wanting to be baptized into the Body of Messiah, for instance. When such a one marries Messiah's Body, he commits adultery because he believes in his heart that his relationship with the Baptist church was legitimate — that he was truly married — but he terminated that marriage because of a squabble or a change of viewpoints. The point being that he doesn't see that being a Baptist is no union with God at all, but just fornication with another spirit. Thus we who are in Messiah become subtly defiled by that person's adultery, and we commit adultery if that person holds to their past experience as being a valid "walk with God."

Well, David, you see the point I am making and how you are drifting away from "so great a Salvation"? How shall you escape?

The brothers and sisters here in Vermont continue to pray for you daily, that you will endure this test of your faith and stand true to the Savior who bought you with His blood. Your life is of great value to the Father in heaven. His love for you, as well as ours, is unfailing. May you be faithful to your good confession of faith which you made the day of your baptism. You knew then that what you were doing was the most difficult decision you would ever make in your life. Stand true, brother.

In the love of Messiah,