



**The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guides
Lesson #8
“Graveyard Dead”**

As we continue to follow the Gospel Paradigm in the book of Acts, chapter two, what is the next step on the **Wheel of Faith**?

- **Read Acts 2:38**

“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Baptism is usually thought of as a public profession of our faith in Jesus, and the moment that we receive the Holy Spirit. However, before it can be any of those things, it must be understood in its first function.

- a. **Read Romans 6:1-3:**

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who _____ to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were _____ into Christ were _____ into His death?”

- What is baptism in its first function?

Baptism in its primary function is a **death to self**.

b. Read John 3:3.

- Why must we be born again?
- What has to happen to us in the Gospel order that prepares us for this new birth?

There first must be a **death to self** before there can be a **new birth**.

- **Discuss this quote:**

*“There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. You must experience a death to self and must live unto God..... Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever”. **Maranatha, chapter 50***

2. What does Paul say should happen after our initial death to self.

- **1 Corinthians 15:31**

“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die _____.”

- **2 Corinthians 4:10-11**

“_____ carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are

_____ delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

- Paul is clear that the believer must not only initially die, but they must stay dead in order for the new life of Christ to be continually manifest in our life.

3. After we have been baptized with the understanding that it is a spiritual death of the old self when we rise, what kind of new life can we expect?

- **Read Romans 6:22**

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your _____ unto _____, and the end everlasting life.”

- **Identify** from these texts promises of the New Birth experience.

- **Colossians 2: 11-13, 3:10**

- **Hebrews 8:10**

- **Galatians 3:26-27, 4:6**

a. The new life experience only takes place after one has first been put to death, and the new life experience can only continue if a person stays dead. With this in mind, we should actually spend some time exploring what it means to be put to death spiritually.

- **Read** this statement then discuss what does it mean to be dead in Christ?

*“The Christian's Oath of Allegiance—As Christians submit to the solemn rite of baptism, He registers the vow that they make to be true to Him. This vow is their **Oath of Allegiance**. They are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus, they are united with the three great powers of heaven. They pledge themselves to **renounce the world** and to observe the laws of the kingdom of God. Henceforth they are to walk in newness of life.” EV306.3*

b. Galatians 2:20

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the _____ which I _____ live in the flesh I _____ by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

c. Read Matthew 9:17.

- What is Jesus trying to say?
- What do the old wineskins represent?
- What does this say to you about your current life?
- Are you an old wineskin still?
- Do you need to become a new wineskin?
- Discuss your thoughts.

d. Read Philippians 3:8. What does Paul call the things of the world?

- Quite simply to be baptized and put to death means to allow God access into your life that He may begin **removing** anything from your life that is sin, and to **add** to your life new ways of living, thinking and doing. It is giving God permission to do whatever he wants in your life to add or take away, Remember, if you're dead, it's no problem. Listening to God's directives in your life is no problem if you have chosen to be baptized and put to death, in fact you should expect that the new life will mean new ways not the same old ways. These new ways are only a burden to those that are not dead.

4. At this point it may be becoming clear that you need to be baptized and put to death so that the new life experience in Jesus can begin. However, there are some that have already been baptized, but they realize they were not put to death. The question naturally rises, “Can I be rebaptized?”

a. Read these statements then **discuss**:

The Lord calls for a decided reformation. And when a soul is truly reconverted, let him be rebaptized. Let him renew his covenant with God, and God will renew His covenant with him. . . . Reconversion must take place among the

members, that as God's witnesses, they may testify to the authoritative power of the truth that sanctifies the soul. Letter 63, 1903. Ev 375.2

We read in the Autobiography by Author White, page 12 on his Grandmother's re-baptism: Ellen White "*received rebaptism into the third Angel's message; and James White writes, "As I raised her up out of the water, immediately she was in vision."*

b. Read Acts 19:1-5. What were the grounds for rebaptism?

- Sometimes rebaptism is seen as something a person does only when there has been some grave apostasy in their life. But as it has been demonstrated, re-baptism is proper in cases where people that were previously baptized did so unaware of all the components of the Gospel, especially this crucial aspect of dying to self.

Thought questions: As you consider this crucial step in the Gospel order, is God calling you to baptism?

If you have already been baptized did you understand this crucial step?

Might God be calling you to a re-baptism?

5. What is the sure result of trying to live the Christian life without having died to self?

- **Read 1 Corinthians 2:14**

"The natural man _____ not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are _____ unto him: neither can he _____ them, because they are spiritually discerned".

- Trying to live for Christ without having first died to self in the waters of baptism is a sheer impossibility. The spirit of God will be a voice undiscerned. In order to be led by his voice, there must be a decision to be dead to the world and a choice to live for God. Then, and only then will the Holy Spirit set up shop internally deep within and begin the process of sanctifying the life.

Thought questions: Might this above text be the reason you have failed miserably as a Christian?

Have you been trying to live the Christian life without the Spirit of God?

Do you want the Spirit of God?

Are you willing to die to get it?

We have taken six crucial steps in the Gospel order. At this point, when we have initially died to self, and then, subsequently died each day; God has promised to do something for us.

- **Read Jeremiah 31:34**
 - God has promised to forgive us our sins when we have gone through the steps of the Gospel. When we are convicted, if we will respond through repentance, God will put a true sorrow for sin in our hearts. And as we cry out for forgiveness, and as we realize our unrighteous life, he will clothe us in His Son's righteousness and forgive our sin. This is what being dead to self means. God does not see me, for I am dead: He sees His Son, and has promised to forgive my sin.
 - Also, this work of God will give me a confidence to live every day in Christ. If I do sin, and it is for sure that times will come when we are overcome, we need not despair. He has promised that if we will return to the **Wheel of Faith**, and go back through the steps, He will forgive again!
- a. This whole process that we have discussed in the first six steps has a particular name.
- **Read Romans 5:8-9** What is the term Paul uses which describes the first six Steps to Christ?
 - **Justification** is the term that Paul uses to describe the first six steps to Christ. To be justified by faith, or be proclaimed righteous by faith, is achieved through following the six steps that we have laid out in this lesson thus far. Faith is not just an intellectualism about the facts of the Gospel, but rather, it has components whereby we must engage the work of God. When we walk through each of these steps, we can be assured that we will receive the Righteousness of Christ that justifies us before God on the great

Judgment Day.

b. For discussion:

There is no more fatal mistake than to imagine that we can live with Christ without having died with Him. Let us not pass hastily by this truth upon which hangs all our hope of living a victorious life. It is the death with Christ which delivers us from the power of sin, and the consciousness of the reality of this experience gives us confidence to share also in His life.

Meade MacGuire, The Life of Victory, page 50.