

BIBLE SPOTLIGHT - on the THREE TYPES of BAPTISM, part 5 (final) quotes

1 There is another part or a second half to being baptized by fire.

“I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But **I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!**” Luke 12:49-50.

Christ had already been baptized by water (Matthew 3:13-16), and had also been baptized with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16), and He was already living by every word of God (Matthew 4:4; John 8:29). But Christ stated that he still needed to be baptized. This reveals that Christ was not yet fully baptized by fire.

2 What was yet needed for Jesus to be completely baptized with fire?

“And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. **Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:** but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” Matthew 20:21-23.

The Greek word for “cup” used here is “poteron”, and it translates and means “the contents of a drinking vessel, a cupful, a lot or fate, cup” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, word #4221). This means that the cup which Christ was yet to fully drink from represented His lot or fate or portion of life experiences which God would allow to occur in order to accomplish the purposes for which Christ was born.

3 What was the portion of life experiences or the cup Christ had to drink from?

“For it became him (the Father), for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, **to make the captain of their salvation (Jesus Christ) perfect through sufferings**....Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”. Hebrews 2:10, 5:8-9.

“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, **let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt**. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, **if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done**. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.” Matthew 26:39-44.

“Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: **the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?**” John 18:11.

This was a cup of suffering, and Christ would not allow anyone or anything to keep Him from drinking it. But Christ suffered both externally, and especially internally by drinking this cup!

“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And **being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground**.” Luke 22:42-44.

This cup of suffering trembled in the hands of Christ, because He sought three different times to His Father to remove Him having to drink it to its very dregs. But Christ did not allow His own feelings to control Him, but fully and completely submitted Himself to do the will of His Father—to endure the suffering of the cross, His separation from His Father and finally His death! Thus the last bit of earthliness left in the human nature of Christ was completely burned away from His character during the fiery experience in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross. Once this was accomplished, Christ had truly been baptized with Fire and came forth more than a conqueror through His Father which strengthened Him.

4 "FORASMUCH then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you**...Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; **but let him glorify God on this behalf.**" 1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-14, 16.

The reason why God allows these fiery trials and sufferings to come to us is to show us the areas in our lives where self still has a presence. These areas of self shut Jesus away from us and therefore we have no Refuge or assurance of salvation. So God is allowing these trials of varying intensities to come to us for our eternal good, and so that we may be able to more and more reflect the perfect image of our Lord and King. And all God's people will indeed experience these times of tribulation!

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**" Acts 14:22.

"Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**" 2 Timothy 3:12.

"...if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7.

5 How should we respond when these storms of affliction and suffering come to us?

"...I am filled with comfort, **I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.**" 2 Corinthians 7:4.

"Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer...**Bless them which persecute you**: bless, and curse not." Romans 12:12, 14.

"...**we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:3-5.

"**In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**" 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Instead of trying to flee from these times of suffering, or complain that they have come at such an inopportune time, we should instead patiently endure, be joyful and glory in them, knowing that Christ is lovingly working to purify our characters in preparing us for heaven.

"...**all things work together for good** to them that love God". Romans 8:28.

6 The greatest danger against our enduring through any of these times of suffering is SELF. It is self that prevents you from patiently enduring in the strength and arms of Christ Jesus--your Refuge!

"O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and **my refuge in the day of affliction**". Jeremiah 16:19.

"And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour...I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. **When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.**" 2 Samuel 22:2-7.

"The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, **a refuge in times of trouble.** And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalms 9:9-10.

7 You cannot hold on to self and to Jesus at the same time! Either you have crucified all self and are hid in Jesus alone, or you have crucified Jesus and are hid in self alone!

Jesus was completely self-less in all that He did! He performed His Father's will and not his own (Psalms 40:8), at all times and in every place (John 8:29). In fact, Jesus so completely and perfectly revealed his Father through every act of His life, that no one knew Jesus Himself as a person, but only the Father! (see Matthew 11:27; John 5:19, 8:28, 14:9-10.) Yet, as completely selfless as His life was, He was still tested in one last area, and this was to the greatest extent possible for humanity to be tested in the Garden. And like with Christ, a similar "Garden of Gethsemane" experience, where the last bit of earthliness will be burned away from God's final faithful people, will take place before Christ can come, the dead can be raised, and heaven can be gained!

8 Christ drank from the cup of suffering to the point of tasting death for every human being, so that faithful remnant people of God will not have to.

"Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine (but with trials, suffering, oppression, etc.): Thus saith thy Lord the Lord, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, **I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.**" Isaiah 51:21-23.

"For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: **but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.**" Psalms 75:8.

"**The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation;** and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." Revelation 14:10-11.

9 Are you willing to endure such self-crucifying humiliation and external and internal suffering for Christ's sake?

"Ye (the wicked) have condemned and killed the just; **and he doth not resist you.**" James 5:6.

"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Romans 8:36.

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..." Job 13:15.

10 What is all our trials of life compared to gaining eternal life of peace and never ending joy with Christ?

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.

11 The final remnant followers of God are symbolized as the "lively stones" which make up God's House or Temple (Isaiah 62:1-3; Revelation 21:9; 1 Peter 2:5). They have made themselves ready and have become the "bride" and "wife" of Christ--their Bridegroom (John 3:29; Matthew 25:1-10; Isaiah 62:5; Revelation 19:7-9), and are clothed in the wedding garments of His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10; Matthew 22:8-14). They have become His true "glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing", because they are "holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27; Song of Solomon 4:7). They have received the seal of God (Revelation 7:2-3, 14:1-5), His name or character has been written upon them (Revelation 3:12), and they are called by the new name of "Hephzibah" (Isaiah 62:4). They truly are "kings and priests unto God" (Revelation 1:6), can stand in the sight of a holy God without a Mediator, and can sit with Christ on His throne (Revelation 3:21)!

But they were only able to obtain this exalted position, as "unprofitable servants" as they are (Luke 17:10), because they were willing to humbly tread the pathway of self-denial, enduring through all the trials and tribulations, letting God burn away and consume all areas of self, and they patiently allowed the Master Refiner to precisely and lovingly skim away all unnecessary material from their character in order to produce a pure and precious reflective silver vessel. And after Christ has made up these 144,000 living saints, He will personally spare and grant them their place in His kingdom and His temple!

"Behold, I have refined thee...I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Isaiah 48:10.

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins. **Thou has caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place (heaven).**" Psalms 66:10-12.

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.** And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, **being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.** And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God....

"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 14:1-5, 7:14-17.

12 “I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.” Psalms 116:13.