

5. The Sacrament of Baptism

“It is the blessing of God just to have the strength to beg for food.”

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one God.

It is written in the Bible that “I baptize you with water, but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Mathew 3: 11, Mark 1: 8, Luke 3: 16).”

“Jesus went into the land of Judea; and there he stayed with his disciples, and baptized (John 3: 22).” “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 Spirit (The Acts 2: 38).”

If a man, a created thing, is baptized, what will happen to him/her? The answer to the question is as follows.

Firstly, even if a man had committed any sin in the past, when he/she repents, has faith in God, and is baptized in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, then he/she will be absolved of his/her original sin. Secondly, he/she will receive a gift of the Holy Spirit. The person who receives the Holy Spirit will be God’s child and His heir. Thirdly, he/she will receive 100 times the blessings.

Fourthly, he/she will be persecuted as Jesus, His disciples and the prophets were persecuted. Fifthly, he/she will enter the kingdom of God.

“Except a man be born of water and of the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3: 5).” The Sacrament of baptism is the most glorious grace of God that makes a common man be reborn as God’s man.

The Holy Spirit gives us 100 times the blessings, the first of which is spiritual: Spiritual blessings are the gifts of miracle, exorcising evil spirits, healing, diverse kinds of tongues, prophecy, the interpretation of tongues, and discerning of spirits (1 Corinth 12). Second, the Holy Spirit gives us the human blessings: “You love one another, as I have loved you. You must love one another (John 13: 34).” Third, the Holy Spirit gives us material blessings.

The spiritual blessings are gifts given by obeying God, the human blessings are given by practicing love, and the material blessings are given by treating material objects as something for managing and not for owning.



Baptism

Three kinds of privileges are given to people who are baptized: privileges of faith, of suffering, and of glory. Therefore, the three kinds of privileges and three kinds of blessings are given to those who are baptized.

I am happy to realize how big the privilege of suffering is. I have been asking for pains and death on behalf of my neighbors with strong faith, aware of the fact that a true priest is a tool of the Holy Spirit. This has helped shape Kkottongnae to become what it is today.

Jesus suffered pains and death on behalf of me, an insignificant being, so I would like to do my part and live a life of loving my opponents to fill up the remaining sufferings of Christ, giving blessings to those who persecute me as a baptized and blessed person. This is the life of enjoying the privilege of suffering and joining the suffering of Jesus Christ.

The kingdom of salvation we will enter is heaven, soon after we receive the privilege of suffering. After our Lord's Holy Spirit gives us blessings with the privilege of faith and we practice God's love, taking part in Jesus' remaining sufferings, then we can enjoy the glorious privilege of entering the kingdom of God.

"Except a man be born of water and of the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3: 5)." When we are baptized, we are eating and drinking Jesus who gives Himself as food (Eucharist) to us as a guarantee of salvation by the Holy Spirit within us. Then we will never be hungry or thirsty forev-

er. Jesus Himself, who is truth and life, becomes a thing worth seeing (Cross); He also becomes a thing worth knowing (Holy Spirit) by sending us the Lord's Holy Spirit.

Those who are baptized and have faith in God are given the gifts of miracles, exorcising evil spirits, healing, diverse kinds of tongues, prophecy, the interpretation of tongues, and discerning of spirits. The sacrament of baptism is the grace of God enabling us to live with Him and making all the creatures become like their Creator.

(This article is written by the Founder of Kkottongnae, Fr. John Oh Woong-Jin)



Grandpa Choi Gui-Dong with Founder Fr. Oh Woong-Jin who are in front of the House of Love for the homeless

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5: 3)

