

Baptism : Physically Simple; Spiritually Profound

Today we are here to participate in and observe a simple ceremony. It will take just a few seconds. The ripples of the waters in the baptismal font will persist for just a minute. But the spiritual impact of what we do here today will echo throughout eternity.

In a revelation given in 1830, the Lord dictated to the prophet Joseph Smith how baptism is to be done. He said, the following:

“Baptism is to be administered in the following manner...

The person who is called of God and has authority from Jesus Christ to baptize, shall go down into the water with the person who has presented himself or herself for baptism, and shall say, calling him or her by name: Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then shall he immerse him or her in the water, and come forth again out of the water.” (D&C 20)

Physically, it is a simple act. But spiritually, it is as profound as eternity.

Let us review together just a few of the spiritual realities concerning this sacred ordinance of baptism.

A Covenant with Him

When we are baptized we are entering into a covenant with the Lord. Being baptized is akin to signing a contract with God. You will recall that Alma said the following to his people:

Now I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him, that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?
(Mosiah 18:10)

Born of the Spirit

This sacred ordinance was instituted by God in the beginning of the world. Adam was baptized. In the book of Moses we read the following account:

And it came to pass, when the Lord had spoken with Adam, our father, that Adam cried unto the Lord, and he was caught away by the Spirit of the Lord, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water.

And thus he was baptized, and the Spirit of God descended upon him, and thus he was born of the Spirit, and became quickened in the inner man.

And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying: Thou art baptized with fire, and with the Holy Ghost. This is the record of the Father, and the Son, from henceforth and forever;

...

Behold, thou art one in me, a son of God; and thus may all become my sons. Amen. (Moses 6:64-68)

When we are baptized with water and receive the Holy Ghost, just like Adam, we become the spiritual sons and daughters of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are spiritually born again. We become new creatures. We are on a new path, a strait and narrow path. A path which if we continue in it, will “land [our] souls, ... at the right hand of God in the kingdom of heaven” (Helaman 3:30)

Unlike Adam, we may not hear an audible voice from heaven today. But I testify that a spiritual voice will be perceptible confirming that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are all aware of what is being done here and that they are pleased with the covenant you are entering into this day.

Of this I testify in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.