

# THE LEVITE

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## Lifeline

*"...a very present help in trouble."*

*(Psalms 46:1)*



**People you just can't help**  
That is not your fault



**The Way**  
Corruption-all around us



**What's in a name?**  
Above every name

**HPC** HODGENVILLE  
PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH  
*Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice*



## PEOPLE YOU JUST CAN'T HELP

Brother David Webb  
Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Proverbs 5:13 *....and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!*

Our hearts break as we watch people suffer needlessly and self destruct. In the ministry, one can find it so frustrating to share insight and revelation on a weekly basis with individuals who have no real commitment to actually applying any of the Godly instruction they receive. Many are satisfied with information and unaware of the possibility of transformation. Truly, as spiritual leaders, we don't mind the day-to-day issues of carnality and pettiness amongst people who are reasonable. It is the ones that wish to justify their lifestyle and dig in their heels that bring us grief.

**It is important to understand ...there are some who won't let you help them and THAT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!**

One of the best things you can do in life is find courage to let go of the things you cannot change! *This time* is not the *first time* that a man or woman of God came to their wits end with someone they loved, prayed with, prayed for, pulled for and fought for.

Even the greatest men of the Bible, after giving their best...

- Chosen Disciples couldn't help Judas
- Paul couldn't help Demas
- Hosea couldn't help Gomer
- David couldn't help Saul
- Paul couldn't help Agrippa

... and you thought it was just you!

You can't help someone who won't let you help. Some are bent to destroy themselves no matter how much one may try to help them.

Let me be clear, controllers and manipulators never question themselves. They never consider they may be in the wrong. In their eyes, the problem is someone else. *These only love you as much as they can use you. Their loyalty ends when you finally set your foot down*

**"You can't help someone who does not want to be helped."**

~John Armstrong~

*and draw the line that they have been pushing you to move to benefit them.*

One man had had enough and said, "I'm not going to let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." One must not allow anyone without a conscience use our conscience against us! The way people treat another individual is about whom they are as human being. *Guilt is to the spirit is as pain is to the body.* Listen, child of God, you mustn't go around feeling guilty over those who rejected your helping hand over and over! We cannot let our loyalty to reaching out to others become slavery. Know when to let go and never compromise on self-respect.

Pastor Abdias Cervantes said, "We are called to love GOD with all our being and our neighbor as ourselves. We are not called to fix anyone or their personal dilemmas. That is above our pay grade. Our responsibility therefore, as ministers of the Gospel, is to inform the broken of their personal Creator who has a flawless plan to fix them. All of the loving service that we engage in must, therefore, only be done with the intent to amplify the message that we are trying to get them to believe; it must never be with the intent to change or fix them. We do what we can with what we are given and are never guilty of what we cannot do. We must love our hearers without partiality but let the burden of repair rest on the shoulders of The Lord of the harvest."





## THE CHURCH AND CULTURE

Pastor Jon Curtis Isaacs  
Grace Fellowship Holiness Church - Elba, AL

The church is a ship, either at sail or adrift in the sea of culture which surrounds it. Drifting is the easier option as it requires no real personal or corporate effort. However, we would do well to consider the direction of the undertow. All societies before us who have given themselves over to the currents of their culture have eventually met the rocks of societal ruin. Sailing against the current demands diligence and attention. One cannot simply hoist a sail of religious expectations and expect positive progress. The direction of the wind must be constantly and properly discerned and adapted, too. The unfamiliar waters must be studied and understood. And then there are the storms. Many who have gone before us have grown weary with the rigors of proper spiritual navigation and given up on the endeavor, but it is only by being driven by the wind of truth that the church can navigate with safety and success.

Currently our culture is experiencing tumultuous storms of change. As we pitch and roll through the threatening waves, there are times when the outward list is terrifying, and then it seems as if we may be righting ourselves and stabilizing. This back and forth has been ongoing for many decades now in our nation. What may go unnoticed to most, however, is how much of the culture the church is taking on while we are listing in that direction. While it may be comforting when we roll back from a dangerous lean towards the wrong, we would be naïve to think that changes in our culture are not affecting the church. With every pitch and roll, more and more culture finds its way below decks in the church. Whether it be the pulpit, the music, or the prayer meeting, we are affected.

Consider how what were at one time viewed as fundamental truths have in recent years become lightly held beliefs and are now in danger of becoming relics of our cultural past. Strong convictions no longer make one an example to be followed, but rather an obstacle to be overcome. Truth has become “relevant” in our society, and relevance has replaced righteousness as the keyword in our pulpits. In the past, new congregations were born out of a work of God. People would begin to seek God, God would respond by sending revival, and a church would be established to continue seeking. In our day, when a new church is opened, polls are taken from the community to decide the direction the church will take. Clothing fads, music trends, and various forms of entertainment are incorporated to make us more acceptable to our surrounding society; all in the name of being relevant.

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**The Church and Culture** - continued from page 3

Is it wrong to adapt to society to at least some degree to make a connection? If we have no common ground, how can we interact, and, thereby, influence our surrounding society? Well, it is certainly wrong if it requires us to compromise the gospel or if it creates an atmosphere where an emphasis on relevance trumps an encouragement toward righteousness. However, being relevant is not wrong in every case. One could even argue that being culturally relevant is an undeniably Pauline approach to ministry—*“...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you”* (1Co 9:22-23 KJV). This passage however, can easily be taken out of context. Warren Wiersbe carefully explains this text:

It is unfortunate that the phrase *“all things to all men”* has been used and abused by the world and made to mean what Paul did not intend for it to mean. Paul was not a chameleon who changed his message and methods with each new situation. Nor was Paul a compromiser who adjusted his message to please his audience. He was an ambassador, not a politician! He simply adapted his approach to different groups. It takes tact to have contact (Wiersbe 2007).

Apostle Paul knew what many of us in the ministry seem to have forgotten: the Word of God is relevant to all times, to all people, and to all cultures; the ink may

change, the message must not. While some things do go out of style, even in the church, we must maintain our trust in the simplicity of the gospel to transform lives. Our modern marketing techniques will never be sufficient to answer the problems of our society. Jesus does not need savvy salesmen. He seeks ambassadors who trust in the gospel and who know the power of God from personal experience.

As to our present situation, we are not the first generation of believers to experience times of dramatic cultural change. Throughout the history of the church, Christians have successfully lived their faith through periods of dramatic cultural confusion, much more pronounced even than what we are presently experiencing. We are the church of Jesus Christ. He is much more than the founder of our religion; He is the *“author and the finisher of our faith.”* He is our provider and our provision. Our surrounding culture will inevitably influence us, but it need not swamp us. Giving ourselves to our culture and drifting where it takes us is nothing more than a drawn-out corporate suicide. Drifting with the whims of the sea is the first step in assimilation, which is just a fancy word for sinking. What is revival if it is not an emptying of the church of all that threatens to sink or slow us and a hoisting of the sails for the Holy Ghost to fill? Therefore, there is but one viable answer to the question, “How can the church survive its culture?” Revival.

### References

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## THE WAY

Brother David Whelan  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Jesus told Nicodemus, “I am the way...” Later, Christians would adopt this saying, referring to themselves as adherents to “The Way”. What exactly

were they talking about? Is there something that was there in the early church that is missing now? Did the early practitioners of what we now know as Holiness, such as John Wesley, discover something that had been lost? If so, what is it, and how can we return to it?

Our world offers many choices for how we engage our minds — for how we spend our time and thought. The collective effort of this is known as our culture. The Church is called to be peculiar (1 Peter 2:9). The Church is called to Holiness (Hebrews 12:14). Holiness is our culture. It’s source is Jesus, the Christ, residing in us. It is that pattern of thought, that way of doing and pursuing things, that makes us unique (peculiar) as a people. God called and accepted every one of us that are saved from the culture of the world. Now, even as we are saved and are sanctified into Holiness, we still maintain some manifestations of the culture around us. It is through the continuing process of sanctification that God prunes and spades around us, bringing us ever closer according to our efforts and desires.

I happen to love the idea of holiness. I am actually grateful that I came to The Way as an adult, because I appreciate it all the more having lived most of my life in vain pursuits. Holiness is a revolutionary idea for mankind. It is that idea that we are able, with the help of the Holy Ghost, to live an obedient lifestyle that is pleasing to God; and that by doing so, not only are we saved from sin, but we are also saved from corruption. All of this is voluntary. While you cannot save yourself, you have a very large role to play in sanctifying yourself. Holiness is the fruit of your salvation. Its pursuit is unique to only a few sects of Christianity today. Most groups have given themselves over to the corruption

around them and have no idea of the concept of holiness. I believe we that identify ourselves as Holiness people are among the few.

Let’s recall that outward holiness is a manifestation of what is in a person’s heart. False holiness is contrived, phony, and offensive. Speaking of people who are insincere, one man said, “What’s in the well comes up in the bucket.” My folks used to say, “You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.” Trying to appear to be part of God’s culture would be miserable and obvious.

One of my favorite parts of outward holiness is our precious sisters. Do they not bear our standard with grace and beauty? While the spirit of Jezebel has taken over the culture around us, my sisters are the most beautiful, the most lovely, the sweetest, and the most unique women on the planet. They appear to the world around them as flowers in the spring. They simply turn popular culture on its head by proving that 100% of what the popular culture does to attain beauty is...well...just vulgar. Why would anyone want to add fake eyelashes to that? Or gaudy jewelry? Or bright red lipstick? How about a tongue piercing? How about some filthy language? Sorry, they just don’t fit together.

The culture of the world is corrupt; it always has been since the fall of man in the garden. We must constantly guard against adopting elements of the corruption around us. It is written that a little leaven leavens the whole lump. A little piece here, a little piece there, and soon we would look and act very much like the culture surrounding us. We will pick it up from our associations, from music, from the places we shop, and from our neighbors. Some parts of the world’s culture are harmless, many are not.

It takes much effort to maintain any system of high order. That is the first law of thermodynamics when applied to

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physics, but it also applies to Godly culture. We must work to keep our spirits in obedience and harmony with the Holy Ghost. Think for a moment how easily we could devolve into sinners. We all have seen people backslide. Often it is remarkable how quickly someone can become corrupt. Good fruit rots quickly, does it not?

I have been interested to observe what I consider corrupt culture over the last several years. Of course, it is all around us, but I have particularly been interested in two elements of our pop culture that influence the overall culture of the country heavily. Those are the Hip-Hop, inner city culture, and the redneck, country music driven culture. Both have little, if any, redeeming quality, and they spin off filth and lawlessness into the culture around them. Even though you wouldn't think so, they share a lot of elements that I discuss below:

**Here are some hallmarks of corrupt culture:**

1. The entertainment glorifies sin.
2. It objectifies women and marginalizes weaker members of society.
3. Sin is openly practiced. There is no longer any shame for it. People are reprobate.
4. Christianity is marginalized, although they pay lip service to it (Jesus, take the wheel...right?) all while promoting ungodliness, false religions, and idolatry.
5. Ultimately education or self improvement of any kind is devalued and ridiculed. Those that attempt to drag themselves up, whether it be by secular education or study of the Word of God, come under attack from the rabble.
6. There is no virtue. The term gentleman is associated with the patrons of bawdy clubs and the term lady with harlots.
7. It is the result of a total lack of effort toward civility, integrity, or decent virtue of any kind.

**Here are some of the fruits of corrupt society:**

1. True poverty. Not just financial poverty, but the lack of any desire or ability to do for one-

self.

2. Murder on an industrial scale.
3. Nonexistent families and vast numbers of illegitimate children that will never know their earthly or heavenly father.
4. Ignorance and the glorification thereof.
5. Drunkenness and other substance abuse are rife.
6. Coarse language and behavior are openly displayed.
7. Men become brutal and thuglike, leaving a vacuum of leadership. Women assume responsibility for all but siring children and become masculine in comportment and behavior.

**On the other hand, Holy living:**

1. Is a largely personal effort and choice that requires determination.
2. Requires constant work and vigilance
3. Produces Godly, temperate, respectful, hard working people that live to please God.
4. Is free of the disease of corruptness.
5. Produces freedom, even if bondage is nearby...think Paul and Barnabas in prison.
6. Bears peace, harmony, and contentment.
7. Fosters children that respect authority and honor their parents.
8. Produces individuals that are mature and capable of functioning at the highest planes of human existence.
9. Glorifies God first, flesh last.

I believe the current testimony is that it must be getting harder to maintain our holiness culture. Recently, a senior evangelist remarked that "people have too much pulling on them; they are self-reliant; they are hard hearted." I am again reminded of Hebrews 12:1 "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily beset us..." Should the Lord tarry, we, among all time, are at a crossroads of decision (as in the days of Noah). Everywhere there are half-

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hearted people among us on the sidelines — drawn to commitment, but also drawn to the world.

*Half in, half out.  
Half out is all the way out...*

If you are reading this, you are one of the fortunate given that the distribution of this publication is to holiness people. I am, of all people, very blessed to have been guided to The Way. I urge you to use the opportunity. See how much of the corrupt culture you can remove from your life. See how many people you can convince to join us.



## THE SPIRIT OF JONAH

Brother Andrew Astor  
Youth Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

I love the book of Jonah. Although it is only four chapters, it tells a compelling story. There is the

“Undeniable Commission”, (*Jonah 1:1-2, The Word of the Lord came unto Jonah*); then the “Unusual Course”, (*Jonah 1:3, He chose Tarshish!*); and, lastly, the “Uncertain Conclusion”, (We are left wondering the outcome of Nineveh).

We all know the story of Jonah fleeing from the presence of God and trying to run from what his purpose was. I wonder how many people today are backslidden in their hearts because they simply refuse to submit to what God's will is for their life? He then finds himself in the belly of this great fish which God had prepared. It was in this underwater “hog pen” that the Old Testament prodigal came to his senses. He is delivered from his prison and finally decides to do what was asked of him.

At this point, Jonah delivers God's message unto the wicked city of Nineveh. He then retires unto a hillside to see what would become of this people. It is on his perch there that the story shifts from the focus of Nineveh to God directly dealing with Jonah. You see, Jonah became disgruntled when he did not see immediate action against the city. Furthermore, he wanted God to destroy the city, not show mercy! His message was correct, but his motive was all wrong. I am not sure what the root cause of Jonah's

corrupted spirit was. Could it have been pride? What about bitterness? Maybe he remembered how God had dealt with him and how his judgment came swiftly. Regardless, the fact is that Jonah was more worried about the weed God grew for him than he was the more than 120,000 people he had preached to...what a sad state for a preacher to reach.

I see many parallels between this story and our modern day. We run into contact all the time with people who care more about “withering weeds” than eternal souls. Daddies who don't have time to throw a baseball with their son but can spend hours keeping up with their favorite sports god. Mommas who are too busy to cook a meal but can spend all day on social media spreading the latest gossip. What about me — do I care more about the souls that I preach to than I do about being right??? I hope that you can receive this same caution that I did while praying several weeks back. I do not want to become a Jonah. My prayer now is, “Lord, save Nineveh! Spare their lives.” Regardless of my own motivations, they have souls. We can replace Nineveh with more personal descriptions: Lord, spare America, or what about that neighbor that is rude, or a family member that has done you wrong. I don't want to have the Spirit of Jonah.





## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Brother Don Woolett  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

We, in the Pentecostal Holiness Church, tend to shy away from

**Act. 2:38.** "...and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." You seldom hear our preachers preach it or even mention it in preaching. One of the reasons, we say, is that we don't want to be thought of as, or be associated with, the Apostolic or Oneness or "Jesus Only" doctrine.

I'm here to declare unto you that **Act. 2:38** says exactly the same thing as **Matt. 28:19** "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Even the Book of Luke declares in **Luke 24:47**, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations,..."

When we baptize in water, we use **Matt. 28:19** because those words are in "RED LETTERS" because Jesus spoke them. **Luke 24:47** was in RED LETTERS also, by the way. Why would what Matthew had to say be any more important or Scripturally inspired than what Luke had to say? I'm here to tell you that Jesus also spoke the words in **Act. 2:38** by the Holy Ghost and caused them to be declared by the Apostle Peter on the

day of Pentecost, for **ALL** scripture is given by the Holy Ghost, and inspired by Him. The Bible also teaches us that the Holy Ghost teaches or inspires **ONLY** what Jesus tells him to. (**John 15:26**) The Apostolics, on the other hand, baptize according to **Act. 2:38** because they think we believe in three gods. But, the Bible says there is one God, and one mediator between God and man which is Christ Jesus.

What is the problem? The problem is many of us don't understand the meaning of the word **NAME** in these two scripture passages. In both passages of Scripture, **NAME** is used in the singular sense. It is not used to denote three individuals but one person, and one authority; the person and authority of Jesus Christ; *For there is no other name, given among men under Heaven, whereby we must be saved.*

The Greek word for **name** in **Matt. 28:19** and **Acts 2:38** is exactly the same word. It is the Greek word *onoma*, and, according to Thayer's definition, *the name is used for everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, i.e. for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds etc.* Jesus Christ is **ALL** and in **ALL**. God has given him a name which is above **EVERY** name.

The Bible says in **1 John 5:7**: "For

*there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*" Then over in the book of St. John 1:1, we read, "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." You see, you can't separate the working of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Ghost any more than you can the togetherness of man's spirit, soul, and body. They are three which work as one and without any one of those, they cease to exist. Therefore, when you baptize, either Scripture is valid because they mean exactly the same thing. When you baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, you are baptizing in the name of Jesus! The Scripture tells us that whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. (**Col. 3:17**)

The Trinity believing Church does not have to shy away from **Acts 2:38** any more than the Apostolic Church has to shy away from **Matt. 28:19**. Now I know there are other differences in belief and Doctrine, but I am addressing this particular subject of **NAME** in these two passages of Holy Scripture.

I truly believe our Pentecostal churches of today spend more time debating or arguing over what name to baptize

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## *What's in a name* - continued from page 8

in than we do actually getting people saved. By the way, baptism, in itself, does not save anyone. Water baptism is a rite subsequent to repentance and/or a born again spiritual experience of regeneration. Therefore, what is spoken is not as important as the baptism itself. We'll cover that again later.

We also need to correctly understand the Godhead. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father has given the Son, Jesus, all power and authority in Heaven and earth until the end time (**Matt. 28:18**) See also: **1 Pet.3:22**. At such time as the end comes, Jesus will turn all authority back over to the Father, being subject to Him, and rule the Heavenly Kingdom (**1 Cor. 15:24**). The Holy Ghost is the third person in the Godhead chain of authority and was sent back to dwell within us with power when Jesus went to be with the Father in Heaven after His resurrection. The Holy Ghost is not higher than the Father, neither is He more important than the Son. Each has his proper place in the workings of the Godhead. There should never be more emphases put on the Holy Ghost or His spiritual baptism than on the Son, Jesus; for Jesus is the highest authority there is! The baptism of the Holy Ghost is important to believers today, but is never more important than salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son.

I truly believe that if we can properly understand the authority and working of the Godhead, we can properly understand the meaning of the word, **NAME**, in **Acts 2:38** and **Matt. 28:19**; and yes, **Luke 24:47** as well. Each of these Scriptures was Divinely inspired by the same Holy Ghost.

### **What is Water Baptism Anyway?**

The word **baptism** comes from the Greek word **baptizo** which means to *immerse* or *dip*. To baptize something means to completely submerge it in a liquid. In a Biblical sense, to baptize a person in water means to put that person completely under the water, then immediately raise him or her up again.

According to the Bible, "**water baptism**" is a symbolic act whereby a new Christian identifies with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Water baptism is a public profession of a person's **repentance** and **faith** in Jesus Christ and a

way of giving outward testimony to an inward work of God.

### **What Does Water Baptism Signify?**

When you get saved you become a **new creation** in your spirit, not in your body (flesh). Your body remains corruptible until the Resurrection, but something inside changes. (Your body can still get sick & die.) Your heart is washed clean by the blood of Jesus, and your spirit is quickened (made alive) by the Holy Ghost. You now have the ability to communicate with God, hear His voice, love and obey Him, **overcome sin**, and work out your salvation by faith.



### **Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?**

The Bible tells us that there is a baptism necessary for salvation; however, it is not water baptism! A person must be spiritually baptized into Christ in order to be saved: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (**Galatians 3:27**) At the moment of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, a person is covered by Jesus' blood (a spiritual baptism blotting out our sin).

Many people insist that water baptism is essential for salvation. However, this is incorrect. You see, salvation is and always has been about **faith** in Jesus Christ. Water baptism is purely an outward sign of God's cleansing work in a person's heart, and is, therefore, meaningless without a prior spiritual experience into Christ. Thus, water baptism is an outward sign of an inward possession.

To illustrate this point, imagine that you have a friend who receives Jesus as Savior today, but then dies in a car accident tomorrow. Your friend never had a chance to be water baptized, but was he or she saved? The answer is yes. That person was baptized into Christ, by faith or covered spiritually by His blood.

The same is true for the thief on the cross (see **Luke 23:43**), who received salvation by faith. So we see that it is **faith** in Jesus Christ that brings about salvation - not water baptism.

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**What's in a name** - continued from page 9**Is Water Baptism Important?**

Lest anyone misunderstand, we'll clarify that water baptism is **very important**. As a first step of **obedience** in walking out one's faith, a new Christian should most definitely be water baptized because the Bible commands it!

To say that "a person is saved by water baptism" is to exclude everyone in the Old Testament from salvation, everyone who has ever been saved moments before death, and everyone who is physically unable to be immersed in water. Clearly, such a belief contradicts Scripture. The Bible teaches that salvation is by faith alone. Water baptism is the testimony of that salvation.

**Who Should Be Water Baptized?**

Water baptism is only appropriate for those who have repented of their sins and believed in Jesus with all of their heart. A Biblical example comes from **Acts 8:36;38** (please read). Water baptism is for those who believe.

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned." (**Mark 16:16**) (Notice he did not say ...and was not baptized...) Water baptism demonstrates obedience to the command of Jesus (read **Matthew 28:19 & James 2:22**).

Some people may ask: **Doesn't being "born of water" imply water baptism?** The verse in question here is **John 3:5**, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." If you assume that being "born of water" means water baptism, you might conclude that **water baptism** is essential for salvation. However, it is dangerous to isolate a verse out of context. The context of John chapter 3 is Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus about **birth**. Notice in verse 3 that there are no other stipulations to seeing the Kingdom of God; you simply must be **born again**.

Well, Nicodemus didn't understand what Jesus meant by "born again," so he asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus puzzled over the concept of two births: a first (natural) birth and a second (spiritual) birth. Jesus replied, "Except a man be born of water and of the

Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." With this statement, Jesus clarified that a man had to be "born of water" (referring to conception in the water of the human womb), as well as "born of the Spirit" (birth by the Holy Spirit), in order to enter His Kingdom.

It's really quite simple: you have to be born once before you can be born twice. Those who insist that Jesus added a water baptism stipulation in John 3:5 are ultimately saying that Jesus didn't tell the whole truth in John 3:3. So, taken in context, John 3:5 has nothing to do with water baptism; it has everything to do with birth.

Another question some ask about water baptism is: **"Is it Biblical to baptize a baby?** No, there is no scriptural basis for infant baptism. How can you be baptized into faith in Jesus on Whom you do not believe? Baptism is an act of faith by one who chooses to identify his life with Christ, and a baby is not yet able to make such a choice.

There are some who believe that an non-baptized infant is in danger of dying without salvation, but Jesus said the Kingdom of God belongs to children as well as to anyone who will enter it as a little child. (**Matthew 19:14 & Mark 10:15**)

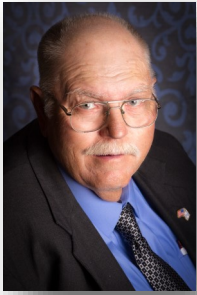
Additionally, water baptism should involve a person's total immersion in water (not sprinkling), because it is a testimony of the person's death, burial, and resurrection in Christ. Biblically, only youth and adults who were able to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus were baptized. They in turn would lead their families and young children into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**The Conclusion**

**Water baptism** is a profession of **faith** in Jesus Christ. Although water baptism in itself does not save, it does identify us with Christ.

When God baptizes you into Christ (saves you) you become part of the Body of Christ, which is the universal family of God. Thus, water baptism is not a meaningless ritual or even a mere duty; it is an awesome privilege for the child of God, because water baptism identifies you with Christ.





## INVEST WISELY

Brother Claude Powell  
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

If a man had a bank that each day credited to his account each morning with \$86,400 that carried over no balance from day to day, allowed him to keep no cash in his account, and every evening canceled out whatever part of that amount he failed to use during the day, what would he do? Draw out every cent, of course! Would you not?

Well, every man, woman, boy, and girl does have such a “bank”, and it is called “time.” Every morning it credits to you 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules as lost whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance and allows no overdrafts. If you fail to use the day’s deposit, the loss is yours!

There is no going back and no drawing against tomorrow. So invest your seconds wisely in an effort to bring forth good fruit for the Lord.



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***ALL***

***THINGS***

***NEW***



**Services and Times**

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Worship 7:30 pm