

Appendix C

Water Baptism

Without the shed blood of Jesus Christ, there would be no forgiveness of sin. Through faith in Christ's shed blood, we are forgiven of and cleansed from sin. If we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ according to the scriptures, and confess Him as our Lord, then we shall be saved (see Romans 10:9-10). Associated with our confession of faith in Christ are instructions on washings.

Arise and Be Baptized

Water baptism is directly associated with conversion, our initial confession of faith in Christ. When Peter first preached salvation in Jesus Christ, he instructed those who believed saying, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Those who received his word were baptized that same day (see Acts 2:38-41).

When Phillip preached Christ to the Ethiopian in his chariot, the man believed and was immediately baptized in water (See Acts 8:27-39).

When Paul was confronted by Jesus and blinded on the road to Damascus he went directly to the house of a man named Ananias. Ananias commanded him saying, "...now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (see Acts 22:16).

There are other examples of people being baptized immediately upon believing, but the words of Ananias to Paul provide one of the strongest associations between water baptism and cleansing from sin: "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..."

Command or Suggestion?

Is water baptism a command or is it just an optional or suggested religious ritual. The scriptures cited above make a pretty strong case for the importance of water baptism. But In Acts 10:48, we read that Peter *commanded* these new believers to be baptized. We find very strong evidence in the scriptures that water baptism is much more than a suggestion or a matter of personal preference.

We have already addressed the important issues of faith, dead works, and obedience. Therefore, water baptism is important because it is one of, if not the first, acts of faith and obedience that a newborn Christian walks in. Therefore, obedience to the command of God to be baptized is one of the first opportunities a new believer has to show his faith by his works.

The Mark of the Covenant

There is much more to water baptism than what is seen with our natural eyes. There is a sort of spiritual surgery performed by Christ in the spirit. It is compared to the practice of circumcision which, under the Old Covenant, was a mark of being one of God's covenant people. This New Covenant mark being one of God's people is water baptism. It is described by Paul in his letter to the Colossians as a "circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11).

Therefore, water baptism is an outward act of faith through which a believer identifies with Christ. Baptism corresponds to, and is synonymous with, the inward act of God washing

away or remitting sin and spiritually marking the new believer as His own. It signifies that the believer has entered into a covenant with God.

Death, Burial, and Resurrection

We also see water baptism in Paul's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He boldly confessed his faith when he said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live" (Gal. 2:20). But he also explained the identification with Christ's resurrection life by saying that we are "buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col 2:12).

This burial and resurrection is also described in Paul's letter to the Romans. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4 KJV). So we see that water baptism is a funeral service for the old person that has been crucified with Christ. Coming out of the water is then seen as a resurrection from the dead to a new live in Christ. These things are not simply symbolic. They are very real in the spirit.

Part of Our Message

It is not uncommon to meet believers who, though they trust Christ, have not be baptized in water. This is often because water baptism was not included in the teachings about Christ that brought them to trust in Him.

We have already mentioned Philip and the Ethiopian. It should be pointed out that when Philip shared the message of Christ and salvation, the man's response was, "What hinders me from being baptized?" There is no record of the exact content of Philip's message, but we know from the Ethiopian's response that it included water baptism.

Another common reason that some believers have not been baptized is because they were baptized as infants and do not understand the difference between infant baptism and water baptism. Since this operation of God takes place through faith and is a personal identification with the work of Christ wherein we reckon ourselves dead, buried and resurrected in Christ, water baptism can only be valid after a person has believed God's Word and repented from sin. Therefore, infant baptism is more of a baby dedication done by parents. It not a replacement for water baptism associated with the born again experience.

Is Water Baptism Essential for Salvation?

When possible, water baptism should be done immediately after one confesses Christ as Lord. This is indicated by the example of the Ethiopian above and by every scriptural account of baptism. However, as important as it is, I do not believe we should go so far as to say one cannot be saved without baptism. Jesus told the thief on the cross beside Him who believed, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."(Luke 23:43 KJV) .

However, for those of us who intend to stay on this earth as believers, the benefits of water baptism should not be ignored. Though it cannot be seen, the spirit world is very real. Without water baptism, the spiritual corpse of the old man is still attached and the weight of it can cause serious problems and hinder our walk with Christ. Also, without water baptism, the resurrection to newness of life is not in effect. If you have been reborn by the Spirit of God, then do not delay, arise and be baptized!

Appendix D

Holy Spirit Baptism

The terminology, Holy Spirit Baptism, or The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, was not invented by the Charismatic or Pentecostal Christians, though it seems to be used more often in these segments of Christianity. Jesus told the disciples, “John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5).

Jesus not only initiated the terminology, but His statement here also indicates that water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism are two separate things. Unfortunately, this has become a topic of contention among some parts of the body of Christ. Some argue it that it is all believers are automatically baptized in the Holy Spirit when they believe and are baptized in water. Others contend that Holy Spirit Baptism, though it may happen simultaneously with water baptism, it is a separate baptism confirmed by clear evidence. Therefore, in this chapter, we will look at the scriptural accounts of Holy Spirit baptism in an attempt to provide insight into these and other issues concerning this very important washing.

What It is and Why We Need It

Before answering whether or not Holy Spirit baptism is separate from water baptism, we will first look at what it is and why it is needed. After Jesus rose from the dead, He was speaking with His disciples concerning the kingdom of God. He told them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, the baptism of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:3-5).

The disciples were curious if this meant that the kingdom of God would immediately appear on earth, as they had also been before Jesus crucifixion (see Luke 19:11). They asked Jesus, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6).

Jesus’ answer to this question about the kingdom was (paraphrased): Don’t worry about the time, but you will receive power to be My witnesses when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will then be able to take the message of the kingdom to the surrounding area and even to the end of the earth (see Acts 1:7-8). Contextually, this tells us what Holy Spirit baptism is and why we need it. *Holy Spirit baptism is equipping of God’s people to be powerful witness for Christ who are preparing the way for the kingdom of God to appear on earth.*

The disciples obeyed Jesus’ command to wait in Jerusalem. Then, at the feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on 120 believers gathered in an upper room. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit and it was evidenced by flames that appeared above them and by a supernatural gifting whereby they spoke in other languages they had not learned. This outpouring of the Holy Spirit was like a wind that was so loud that people in the city heard it and came to see what it was. Because of the feast, the city was full of people from many nations who heard these local people speaking in their own languages. From that day, the power of the Holy Spirit was in the church and the news of it began to spread to many nations (see Acts 2:1-12).

One Event or Two?

Upon hearing the wind, seeing the flames, and hearing these Galileans speak in other languages, people began asking many questions. Peter stood up and preached a powerful message to those listening. Many who heard the message believed and asked, “What shall we do?” Peter responded, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the

remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38).

Many have interpreted this statement to mean that the gift of the Holy Spirit is automatically received when one repents and is baptized (in water). If this were the only scriptural precedent, I might be inclined to agree. However, there are other scriptural accounts that give us a different picture.

Some time had passed and the church was growing in Jerusalem. A persecution arose against the church and, as a result, believers were scattered, spreading the word everywhere. One of these was Philip, who went down to the city of Samaria. He was full of the Holy Spirit and did many miracles and many people believed and were baptized (in water).

Upon hearing that Samaria had received the word of God, the apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria to see the work. When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for these new believers “...that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit”(Acts 8:15-17 NKJV). Here we see that, though these believers were baptized in water, they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Later we read where the Apostle Paul made contact with some disciples during his travels. Upon learning that they were disciples seeking God, he asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (See Acts 19:2). Apparently, Paul did not assume these men had been automatically baptized in the Holy Spirit when they believed.

From this question and from the account of Phillip’s converts in Samaria, it is safe to say that Holy Spirit baptism does not automatically happen when we believe and are baptized in water. Therefore, as we will see below, there are many believes today who are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, but could and should be.

Is it for Me?

Now, we address the question, “Is it for me?” Let’s go back to Peter’s sermon and His answer to those who believed. “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call’” (Acts 2:38-39 NKJV). The answer is clear enough. The promise is to “*every one of you.*”

Holy Spirit baptism is for you and all who believe and are baptized in water. Yet many Christians have not experienced it. Many feel they do not need this baptism. This may be for many reasons. Often it is due to associating it with extreme emotionalism or some other behavior that they may have observed or perceived as wacky. In other words, “Does receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit mean I have to do that?” This may be why some have chosen to believe that Holy Spirit Baptism is an intangible experience that automatically accompanies water baptism, regardless of the scriptures that show that it is a separate baptism.

But let’s not throw the baby out with the bath water. Whether or not a certain behavior or practice is wacky or not is a matter of personal opinion. So we won’t go there. But biblical accounts show that Holy Spirit baptism empowered believers to carry out the kingdom purpose of God with powerful demonstrations of healing, deliverance, and diverse miracles. So the real question is: “Do I need, or do I want, that kind of power?” If not, why not?

The Evidence of Holy Spirit Baptism

The first thing we can point to as evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism in scripture is simply power. Jesus said, "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...." (Acts 1:8). That is how we know. But that is a bit general. What kind of power? How will this power manifest?

Some have claimed it to be an inward power, a power that is not readily observable. But when Peter and John laid their hands on the new believers in Samaria to receive the Holy Spirit, the result was something very observable by others. Simon saw something that was so outward and apparent that he offered money to Peter and John if they would give him the same ability to lay hands on people and impart the Holy Spirit.

It is probable that Simon saw the same kinds of power that were manifested at the original outpouring on the day of Pentecost. On that day there was a strong supernatural wind, flames of fire appeared, and people spoke in other tongues. There are other scripture accounts that describe how the power was manifested when believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

When Peter was directed to share the word of God with the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them even while he was still speaking. He and those with him were amazed because the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also. "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God" (Acts 10:46).

Then commanded that they immediately be baptized in water. Lest there is any doubt that we are talking about Holy Spirit baptism here, and not some other work of the Holy Spirit consider what Peter said when he reported this event to the Apostles and Elders back in Jerusalem. "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 11:16).

We have already looked at Acts Chapter 19 where Paul contacted disciples and asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed. In this case, they were unaware of the promise of the Holy Spirit. So, Paul informed them and baptized them in the name of Jesus. Then he laid his hands on them and verse 6 says: "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:6 NKJV). Here we again see tongues (along with prophecy) as an evidence of Holy Spirit baptism. Though there are several possible ways the power of God may be manifested, the most common is speaking in other tongues.

Tongues was originally used as a way to communicate the wonderful works of God to people from other nations on the day of Pentecost. But the gift of tongues does not have to be so pragmatic. This was not the case when Peter preached to the Gentiles and they received the Holy Spirit, they all spoke the same language. Neither was there a language barrier that needed a supernatural remedy when Paul ministered to the disciples in Acts Chapter 19. In fact, it is Paul who reveals other uses for the gift of tongues in his letter to the Corinthians. These include self edification, a special prayer language to God, and messages as a sign (that needs to be interpreted, see 1 Corinthians 14).

It may be that tongues is the most common evidence because it is a sign that reminds us of the *purpose* of Holy Spirit baptism, that we are empowered for the purpose of spreading the message of the kingdom to the whole world, even those who are far off and speak other languages. Remember what Jesus told the disciples in response to their question about the kingdom appearing immediately. "Don't worry about the time, but you will receive power to be My witnesses when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will then be able to take the message of the kingdom to the surrounding area and even to the end of the earth" (paraphrased, see Acts 1:7-8).

Seeking Holy Spirit Baptism

I have heard people say things like, "If God want me to have this Holy Spirit baptism or tongues, He will give it to me." But don't be surprised if such people do not receive. We must first seek.

The scriptural precedent for "seeking" as a prerequisite is pretty strong. The 120 in the upper room on the day of Pentecost had been waiting for several days. The Gentiles who received the Holy Spirit were seeking God with fasting. The twelve men that Paul found (Acts 19) were "disciples," a term that implies seeking through discipline. Besides that, Jesus tells us quite clearly that we must ask and seek if we expect to receive the Holy Spirit.

"And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit the those who ask Him" (Luke 11:9,13)?

The person who has experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not necessarily permanently filled, although "Spirit-filled" is a common phrase used to describe those who have experienced Holy Spirit baptism. Those of us who have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must continue to seek. Holy Spirit baptism is the *initial* filling or endowing of the believer with the power of the Holy Spirit, but scripture records other times when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 4:31 and 13:52).

All Christians need to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus meant when He said, **"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water"**(John 7:38). The Holy Spirit living in the believer wants to be a river that constantly fills and overflows and fills our souls.

This is why it is so important to receive instructions on washings. Uncleaness hinders this flow. Holy Spirit baptism is an endowment of power. So, in one sense, we could say that water baptism washes away the filth of the flesh and Holy Spirit baptism washes away the weakness of the flesh.

The Holy Spirit is given to us as a sort of down payment, a pledge or a guarantee of much more to come in eternity (see 2 Cor. 5:5). Therefore, let us lay aside all excuses and earnestly seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power to be witnesses in our world.

Appendix E Mind Washing

When we were newborns, our mother did everything for including washing us. But as we grew older, we were expected to take some responsibility for keeping ourselves clean. I remember as a child how my mother used to inspect me after my bath. "Did you wash behind your ears? Did you clean your finger nails? Let me see your elbows. Lord have mercy! Those elbows are filthy! Get back in there and scrub those elbows again—and use soap this time! And don't forget to brush your teeth!. Washing doesn't seem to be one of those things that comes naturally to children.

The same is true in the spiritual sense. When we are first reborn, we are immediately baptized in water and hopefully baptized in the Holy Spirit as well. But as we continue in the faith, there is more cleansing that will need to take place. In this chapter, we will look at biblical instructions concerning two more types of washing.

Mind Washing

The Whole Man

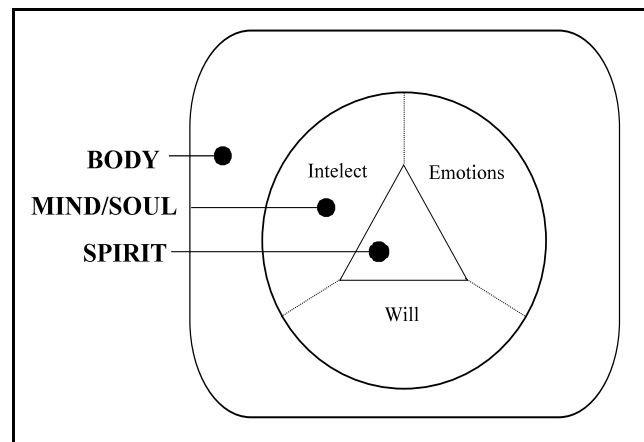
Anyone who has been a Christian for any length of time has realized that believing, being baptized in water, and even being baptized in the Holy Spirit is not the answer to all your problems. You may still find yourself struggling with old habits and evil thoughts. But don't worry. This is not unusual.

Every human was created with three parts: a spirit, a soul and a body which makes up the whole person (see diagram).

1. Our spirit is the core of who we are. It is the eternal part of our being where the Holy Spirit comes to live in us.
2. We have a soul (or mind) which consists of intellect, emotions, and our will.
3. We live in a body. It is what allows us to live on earth. If our body dies, our spirit and soul must depart earth as we know it.

Of course, God has made provision for the salvation of all three parts. He desires that the whole person be saved, spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 5:23). However, salvation does not happen for all three parts at the same time.

If you have believed and become a Christian, God did a work of rebirth in your spirit. That is now a past event. The salvation of your soul is a present work that is continuing and the salvation of your body is a future event will take place when Jesus returns, giving us immortal bodies.



The Whole Person

The chart below illustrates this and gives scripture references that correlate to past, present, and future salvation.

Past	Present	Future
Spirit	Soul/Mind	Body
has been saved	is being saved	Will be saved
Rom 5:8 2Tim 1:8-9	1 Cor 1:18 Phil 2:12	1 Peter 1:5 Rom 8:23-24

Transformation of the Mind

In is the work of God going on in our minds that we want to focus on here. Though our spirits may be cleansed, the mind still has need of cleansing. To some degree, all of us have had our minds programmed with thought patterns, habits, ideas that disagree with God. In other words, our thinking process has been formed and shaped by the world we live in. God wants to change that. The apostle Paul writes, “ And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2). We don’t always know what the will of God is. But as we renew or wash our minds with the word of God, be gradually begin to think like He thinks and see things from His perspective.

3 As we read and study the word of God, it is like looking at the reflection of God, because the Bible reflects His will and His way of thinking. This is what the Apostle Paul was talking about when he said, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV).

In Ephesians chapter five this is called “the washing of water by the word.” Christ is continuing to wash us that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless (see Eph 26-27).

The Benefit of Right Knowledge

As stated above, the mind or soul is made up of the intellect, will and emotions. Our will is what we use to make choices. Our will makes choices based on intellectual and emotional data.

Let’s imagine that an employee is with the opportunity and temptation to steal money from his employer. The money represents things that emotions desire. But, employee’s intellect has knowledge of the word of God that says, “Thou shalt not steal.” So, the emotions are overruled by the intellect and the will says no to the temptation to steal.

But what if a different employee is presented with the same temptation. This person has heard that stealing is wrong, but also has a victim mentality. He has convinced himself that it isn’t fair for his boss to have more money than he does. The victim mentality and the deceptive reasoning that goes with it have clouded the intellect. The emotions win out causing a choice of the will to take the money.

Unfortunately, it seems that most of our world is controlled by the emotions due to wrong thinking. But as we renew our minds with the word, our intellect, will, and emotions will come

into alignment with God. If we think right, we will act right. In the Psalms David said, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11)!

There are many forces at work in this world that would try to steal the word out of our hearts and leave us susceptible to temptations and evil. This is why we should make Bible study and personal fellowship with God in prayer a regular part of our lives.

Appendix F Foot Washing

What Is This All About?

Many years ago, as a new believer, I was invited to a foot washing service at a small country church. Being young, full of zeal, and ready to experience all that I could from God, I gladly accepted. It was a pretty normal church service as church services go for that particular type of church. After the preaching, towels and pans of water were brought out. Everyone removed their shoes and people tied towels around their waists and began taking turns washing each other's feet. There were praises, loud Thank-You-Lords, and tears. It seemed to be rather emotional time for those people that I didn't really understand.

In John's gospel, chapter 13, we have the record of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion. After the meal, Jesus wrapped a towel around Himself and began to wash His disciples' feet. Like me, they didn't understand fully what He was doing either. But He told them they would later.

More Than Clean Feet

Those who traveled the dusty roads in those days wearing sandals had regular need of foot washing. It was customary in those days for hosts to provide water for guests to wash their own feet. To actually wash the feet of another was a very lowly task, often reserved for servants or slaves.

Therefore, when Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, "You shall never wash my feet!", it was likely due to his high respect for the Lord. But Jesus insisted and said, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Realizing that there was more to this than getting clean feet, Peter allowed it.

The obvious lesson is one of humility. Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14 NKJV). But there is more to learn from this than just humility.

Feet, Hands, and Head?

When Peter resisted the idea of Jesus washing his feet, Jesus told him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (John 13:8 NKJV). Upon hearing that, Peter must have concluded that this was more important than he had imagined. So he replied, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus went on to explain that he has been cleansed needs only to wash his feet.

So far, we can conclude at least three things. 1) Foot washing is given as an example of humility that we should do to one another. 2) Foot washing is very important because without it, we have no part with Jesus. 3) Foot washing is not a repetitive cleansing as if our previous cleansing has somehow been negated. It is more of an act of "maintenance." So how does this apply to us today?

A Spiritual Understanding of Foot Washing

At this point, let's remember that we are the foundational principle of baptisms/washings, as it relates to cleansing from sin. It is safe to say that none of us has walked completely free of

sin since the time we repented and were baptized in water. John also writes in his first epistle, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8 NKJV). In other words, we were cleansed when we believed, repented and were baptized, but since we are still walking in this world, our feet are likely to get dirty from time to time. John also makes another interesting statement in this context, just a few verses before.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. -1 John 1:6-7 NKJV

One would assume that walking in the light would facilitate fellowship with God. But that is not what this passage says. It says that walking in the light facilitates fellowship with *one another*. Walking in the light and fellowship with one another means that nothing is hidden, it speaks of openness or transparency in relationships. The result of this walking in the light and fellowship with one another is that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Now, let’s look at another verse in this context.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:8-9 NKJV

Now we can see that, “confessing sins” in verse 9 is more about confessing our sins to one another that confessing them to God. After all James says, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”(James 5:16 NKJV).

Though we should certainly go to God in prayer for forgiveness of sins, we also have scriptural precedent for forgiving one another of sins. John again, records the words of Jesus saying, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:23 NKJV). John give further instruction here later in his first epistle.

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.(1 John 5:16-17 NKJV)

Accountability and Relationships

There is obviously a great amount of intercessory authority granted to us as believers. Foot washing is about using that authority in our relational circles to encourage, exhort and cleanse one another from sin. Confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another’s sins to be forgiven is the spiritual application of foot washing. It is not always necessary to pull out the towels and pans of water, but the truth of this, applied in such a way can be a powerful experience.

We should also reiterate the relational context of this practice. Confessing faults is not intended to be a public airing of ones faults. It should be done in confidence with those whom we

love and trust. Proverb says, “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends” (Proverbs 17:9 NKJV). Those who give ear to the confessions of others should also remember this verse: “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1 NKJV). We should always move in grace, realizing that we too have weaknesses and what we sow, we reap.

This application of foot washing requires some close relationships, which unfortunately, many do not have. Therefore being a part of an accountability group, or whatever it may be called, where close relationships can be built should be a high priority in our lives.