

**Reading Response:**

**Jesus' Baptism**

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Th 231 The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

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This week in The Holy Spirit and the New Testament, we covered the baptism of Jesus. The purpose of this reading was to raise the questions of baptism. When was Jesus baptized? What was the purpose? What does this baptism mean for Jesus and believers? In addition to that what was the role of the Holy Spirit in it all? The author H.B Swete pointed out the fact that Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His public ministry. This was the age that Swete notes that Jesus knew in his spirit that the time had come for him to start his public ministry. He wasn't guided by rules or regulations, but it was "only the Holy Spirit working through the consciousness of the humanity of Jesus." Before Jesus even arrived on the scene, John the Baptist knew in his Spirit that a Messiah was coming. The author states that the promised blessing of the Messianic age was spiritual baptism. During Jesus' baptism, he rose from the water seeing the Holy Spirit descending like a dove. Swete shares that the dove was the sign, not that the Spirit was in the dove or within the wind or fire on the day of Pentecost. The heavens opened, the Spirit rested on Jesus, and a voice spoke.

Just as last week I didn't see any issues with the author's point of view. He made points that were valid and used scripture to authenticate his beliefs. The thing that caught my attention was when He states that the Spirit anointed Jesus. He said, "God that anointed us, who also sealed us and gave the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." The scripture in 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 reads this way: "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge." Even Jesus needed the Holy Spirit. So, this lets me know that we all need the Holy Spirit.

Jesus's baptism was vital because it validated John and the revelation that he spoke to believers, and it allowed Jesus to lead by example by showing believers what it means to submit

to the Holy Spirit and allowing him to dwell in their lives. Upon conversion; instantaneously, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer's life. This is a yielding to a new life where the Holy Spirit is sealed in the heart of the believer. This seal is accomplished through the works of the Holy Spirit taking up residence in the believer's life which is connected to the baptism of the Spirit. The impact that this has on ministry when the Holy Spirit is allowed to take up residence is a ministry that is fully submitted to God's will by the guide of the Holy Spirit.

## Bibliography

Swete, Henry Barclay. *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament*. Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1998.