

**Reflection Paper #6**

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The author describes water baptism as the visible sign of invisible grace. I have been baptized twice. Once when I was eleven, and the last time as an adult. The experience I had was not a pleasant one. A preacher forced me to be baptized, offered me a monetary gift just so I would not embarrass my father who was the preacher. He forced all of the children during a revival service to be baptized and foolishly as my father the parents permitted the coercion and we all accepted Jesus our first time with a lack of understanding and not in the right spirit or heart. Reading this chapter of the book I realized I didn't have to do this sacrament again, for God's invisible grace has always been with me. Though the water baptism certainly has had a significant impact in my life, it was the baptism in the Holy Spirit which initiated an ongoing spiritual transformation. I remember the day the gift of tongues fell upon me. I was so swept away by this spiritual love language the Holy Spirit had given me that I know I spoke with this new tongue about thirty minutes without ceasing. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that has unveiled God's mysteries to me and revealed the traps of Satan.

The author communicates The Lord's Supper is a meal which represents a prominent theological pattern throughout the scriptures. Examples such as; the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, manna from heaven when the Israelites were in the wilderness, and the feeding miracles. This sacrament calls the church to unity with Christ. There have been times when I knew my heart was not right and I heavily weighed the option of taking communion. I hold this sacrament sacred and did not want to drink and bring condemnation to myself. During The Lord's Supper, I envision Jesus administering it to me himself. I have often asked the question would he be hesitant or pleased to have me at his table. This sacrament represents his body, and as often as I am an active participant I must do it in remembrance of him. For as the author states I am a partaker of his divine nature

Several years ago not long after I had announced my calling into the ministry, one of my fellow co-laborers of the gospel washed my feet. I remember it so vividly, it was at our Monday night prayer meeting. There were only a few of us there, and we were at the altar standing in a circle praying. He began to cry and took my shoes off and asked if he could wash his feet. I was caught off guard, not by the request, but what his wife would think if she found out he washed my feet. He washed my feet with the tears that he cried out of his obedience to the Spirit of God and for me. This exchange of fellowship has been one of the most impactful experiences as a believer. As I was reading I realized God sent him to confirm my ordination as a minister of Christ. He washed my feet to show our shared fellowship in the body of Christ. I needed to be cleansed and renewed, and he humbly showed his sacrificial love to Jesus through this obedient act. He emptied himself so I could empty myself through this *kenosis* experience. He laid down his life for me as Jesus laid down his life for us both. He exemplified his authentic ministry in which God had given him. When I think about the man who washed my feet and the servanthood he exemplifies at our church, I could not have asked for a better person to experience my first foot washing experience with.

I have experienced great power with the anointed touch on myself and the laying of my hands on others. I do agree with the author the oil represents the presence and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It gives me great hope to know because Jesus is anointed with the “oil of gladness”, I was able to be redeemed, healed, and comforted. The church, as the body of Christ, the author communicates, is empowered with the anointed touch of Jesus. However, I believe because the church does not consistently operate in the power of faith and authority we have been given, many leave the church in the same state in which they came. This sacrament

produces *egeiro*, a resurrection or a new life. It allows for one to experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a way that can only be experienced with and through the Triune God.