

Audio Teaching Sermon Message #64 Immersion Learning

[A Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:06]

I'd like to extend a big hello to all faithful listeners to the Word of the LORD. Welcome to the next installment of **DWJD's audio teaching sermon series**. Today marks the **64th Sermon**—and its title is "**Immersion Learning**." Greetings everyone! Pastor Jefferson here with you on this glorious day in the LORD. Every day in the LORD is glorious—never forget that. We've been studying the significance of the prophetic intervals surrounding the ministry of Jesus and John the Baptist. And we've been comparing them to other identical intervals God is using to prove to us that He is the One ultimately in charge of everything. We will be focusing on this topic for a long while, but for today, I want to go back and answer a few questions brought up in the minds of listeners from last time. Perhaps the biggest is my statement that "*No one was saved during the earthly ministry of Jesus.*"

[B The Holy Spirit was Not Present 1:06 thru 2:33]

Let me begin by clarifying precisely what I meant. When I said no one was saved, between the day Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist on **22 Oct 29**—marking the official start of His ministry until His Ascension on the **13 May 33**, I meant there were no persons who became "**fully fledged**" during that time. See **section E**, Sermon Summary PDF. It was due to the fact the **Holy Spirit** was not present. He had not yet arrived. And without Him, there can be no salvation. And He would not appear until the **22 May 33**, 10 days after the Ascension of Christ. It would be beyond that specific date when folks could begin reaching the point of full salvation—and not before. As far as **Jesus** receiving the **Holy Spirit**, it did land upon Him like a dove when He was baptized. Jesus was born sinless and was without a sin nature, so He was the one person who did not require salvation. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him was symbolic to show they were now officially operating as a team.

[C Repentance Requires Anxiety 2:33 thru 4:20]

Open your Bibles now to **Acts 2:38**. It reads in the *Greek*, ¹ "Peter then to them said, ² 'Repent!' he declared, ³ "And be baptized, ⁴ every one of you, ⁵ in the name of Jesus Christ, ⁶ for the forgiveness of your sins, and [after that] ⁷ you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit." We see in **T-1**, it is the disciple Peter who is speaking. The word for **repent** in **T-2** is *meh-tah-no-SAH-tay* and it translates "**to think differently or have a change of heart after something takes place, by reconsidering a moral principle, all the**

while feeling compunction.' The word brings along with it the idea of totally changing one's mind after something significant happens. The word **compunction** means **'anxiety arising from the awareness of guilt.'** T-2 tells us Peter declared for all to repent! The Greek word for **he declared** is *fay-SIN* and it means **'to affirm, to bring to light, or to strongly assert one's point of view.'** Peter's preaching was on fire, as we might say today. The Greek dictionary goes on to state that *"such speech is capable of producing an epiphany."* The dictionary defines **epiphany** as **'a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.'**

[**D** Immersed, Submerged and Whelmed 4:20 thru 5:48]

We see in T-3, the requirement to be baptized. The Greek word for **be baptized** is *bap-TIS-they-toe* and it's only used this one time in Scripture, and it means **'to immerse, to submerge or to make whelmed.'** Peter here is not taking about the act of merely dunking someone under water. No! The ritual of baptism, performed usually at the beginning of our journey down the road to holiness is merely a picture or depiction of the salvation process. It does not and cannot replace immersion learning. Our period of instruction means we are to be focused on gaining all the teaching we can absorb regarding **God** the Father, **Jesus** His Son and the **Holy Spirit**. We are to be enrolled in a program of *immersion learning*. The immersion part has 2 teaching points. **1st** we are to focus squarely on God's Word in our quest to foment an intimate relationship with the person who is the focus of our faith—Jesus Christ. And **2nd**, we are not to study or even listen to other religious oriented teaching while we are focused on Jesus.

[**E** In the Name of Jesus Christ 5:48 thru 7:13]

Have you ever noticed that it is quite difficult to hear other people while being submerged underwater? This is part of what Peter is saying. We are not to study other books or religions or hear other opinions while we are undergoing discipleship training. The word **whelmed** in the definition of *baptized* means **'to turn something upside down so as to cover and engulf completely.'** T-3 is telling us a change in our mind and attitude towards Christ takes place *following after* our baptism. T-4 is saying that this verse is applicable to everyone. No one gets a pass—not the deacons, not the elders and not the pastor. Look now at T-5, *"in the name of Jesus Christ."* The word for **name** is *ON-om-ah-tee* and means **'the full manifestation and/or revelation of someone's character, which distinguishes them from all others.'** In Hebrew culture a person's name is

inseparable from their authority and cause. Their name includes every thought brought to mind, every notion or feeling which is roused upon hearing it spoken.

[**F** Free Means Without Cost 7:13 thru 8:46]

So, T-5 is telling us that everything we can glean about **Jesus Messiah**, is our sole quest while undergoing immersion learning. T-6 tells us that it was this **Jesus Messiah** who was the **One** who forgave our sins, by paying our sin debt in full. T-7 is telling us after all that, only then can we receive the free gift of the **Holy Spirit**. The word we see for **free** **gift** is *dor-ree-AN* and translates to **'a gift given without cost, for no charge and having no requisite to pay.'** So, there can be no salvation apart from the **Holy Spirit**. Now, I know that some of you are wondering aloud, *"What about those persons who the Bible says were saved upon hearing the preaching of Jesus while He was still alive?"* I am not aware of any instance in Scripture where preaching performed by Jesus resulted in anyone's *immediate* salvation. There are many examples of where the preaching of His disciples, resulted in folks coming to the point of *believing* in Christ. This is the juncture where we place ourselves on the holy road leading to full salvation. But, once again, it is a journey in and of itself and not a short stroll in the park on one sunny afternoon.

[**G** Belief versus Salvation 8:46 thru 10:26]

As I have taught on here many times, there is indeed a road to holiness—which leads to full salvation when completed—a state in which I describe as being **"fully fledged."** These people are represented by the **5 virgins** who go out to meet **Jesus** in the air on the day of the **Rapture**. And there are those who are progressing somewhere along the holy road leading to full salvation—but haven't yet completed their journey. These are represented by the **5 virgins** who don't have enough oil in their lamps and will be left standing on the ground. They are the half of the church who will be *"left behind."* So, with that in mind, now open your Bibles to **Acts 4:4**. Here **Paul** highlights some folks reaching the point of belief upon hearing the preaching regarding Christ. But notice the words came out of his mouth, and not Jesus. From out of the *Greek* we read, *"Many however of those having heard the word believed, and became the number of the men about five thousand."* The word we see in the verse for **believed** is *ep-pis-TOY-san* and means **'to believe, to have faith or to be persuaded.'** Wait! Pastor Jefferson, it says right there, *"They believed, they had faith and were persuaded."* Yes, it does. Now, open your Bible to **Acts 2:41**.

[**H** Belief Alone is Insufficient 10:26 thru 11:59]

This verse proves my point even stronger than the last one. It reads from out of the Greek, “Those indeed therefore having received the word of him were baptized; and were added on the day of that, souls about three thousand.” Hey! These guys believed and were baptized, right? Weren’t they saved? No, not in the sense of being fully fledged. There is one word for **having received** and is *ah-po-DEX-an-men-oi* and translates to **‘receive heartily, to gladly welcome or to receive willingly into the mind.’** This word is only seen once and has essentially the same meaning as *‘to come to believe.’* The word we see for **were baptized** is also a rarely seen word and it is *eh-bap-TIS-theh-san*. It means **‘to be immersed, submerged, or to be dipped under.’** In this particular instance, the word is applicable to ceremonial ablution, especially for describing the ordinance of Christian baptism. **Ablution** is defined as **‘the washing of one’s body (as in a religious rite).’** So here Paul is speaking about the ritual act of baptism and not the journey down the Road to Holiness. He is talking specifically about making a public confession of faith.

[**I** True Belief Equals Persuasion 11:59 thru 13:28]

So, in these two verses, Paul and Peter are talking about joining the church. And in the same way that enrolling in a university does not immediately award someone a 4-year degree—neither does joining the church result in immediate salvation. It requires study and hard work before that happens. It is the same for the follower of Jesus. Open your Bibles now to **Mark 16:16**. It reads in the Greek, ¹ “The one having believed ² and having been baptized ³ shall be saved; ⁴ but the one however having disbelieved ⁵ shall be condemned.” In **T-1** we see the word *pis-TOY-sas* for **having believed**. It means **‘to commit, entrust, or to have faith.’** The level of trust reaches the point of being willing to be publicly dunked underwater, thus showing a level of commitment. As we stated before, it means to be persuaded. The dictionary says to be **persuaded** means **‘to be moved by argument, entreaty or expostulation to a belief, position or course of action.’** It does take a significant level of persuasion to get a person into church and to participate on a more or less regular basis.

[**J** Baptism Leading to Salvation 13:28 thru 14:55]

T-2 adds in the requirement to be baptized. The word we see here for **baptism** is *bap-TIS-theh-sis* and means just what we’ve already discussed. However, this word is seen 3 times in Scripture and each time this word is associated with the Greek word seen in **T-3**.

The words **will be saved** is represented by just one word and it is *so-THES-seh-tie* and it means **‘to be preserved, protected or delivered safely.’** Today we’d might say a person was rescued from certain danger into a place of safety. God is discussing the permanent rescue of believers from the penalty and power of sin into His provision. Look now at **T-4**. It says, *“But the one however having disbelieved.”* The word for **having disbelieved** is *ah-pis-TAY-sas*. It is seen just this one time in Mark and means **‘the refusal to be persuaded, or to betray a trust, or to be unfaithful.’** This word means more than to disbelieve or to simply not believe something or someone. It brings the idea of a conscious refusal to be or remain faithful.

[**K** **Disbelief Leads to Condemnation** **14:55 thru 16:21**]

As I have stated before, it means there is a cognizant and visceral rejection of the Word of the LORD. The person has heard it preached, they’ve clearly understood what it is saying, and yet they still refuse to place any trust or faith in it. The Bible even speaks of those who begin the trek to holiness, only to become convinced by Satan that God’s truth is unreliable or untrue and so they no longer wish to remain within the eschatological boundaries of the church. They quit their discipleship and choose to walk away. Look now at **T-5** for the penalty. We see one word for **will be condemned** and it is *kat-tah-RITH-set-tie*. It translates **‘to be condemned by having received a judgment.’** It brings the idea of having been judged and found guilty and sentenced. In this case, it means a sentence to spend eternity in the **Lake of Fire**. I want to point out that this does not apply to folks who have never heard God’s word. The reverse meaning of belief is not a lack of belief. No! It is **distrust**. And you cannot distrust something you’ve never even heard of.

[**L** **Ceremonial Baptism is Insufficient** **16:21 thru 18:00**]

Therefore, belief alone is not sufficient for salvation. The Bible teaches that even the demons believe and tremble. And as we just observed in **Mark**, belief all by itself can fail. A person who is perhaps initially persuaded can easily become discouraged and then dissuaded. But even Christian people retain the right to change their mind. And Satan is successful at getting many people to do just that. And, when we add in ceremonial baptism, it too is just part of that initial belief or faith. A public confession of one’s faith is just the first test of many on the road to holiness. One thing’s for sure—it you are hesitant to get baptized at the beginning of your walk, what does that say regarding your level of commitment to Jesus Christ? Let me stop here and ask a question. Assume that

you just walked out of a deepest, darkest jungle and for the very first time heard a really moving sermon about Jesus. So, you decide to go forward in the service, and you kneel at the altar and say a prayer to receive Christ. Are you at that point *fully fledged*? How about if you decide to stick around for the Sunday evening service in order to get baptized. How about then? Are you eternally locked into God's Kingdom at that point?

[**M** **Not Enough Oil in the Tank** **18:00 thru 19:25**]

When we examine the parable of the **10 virgins**, we'd have to say, "No way!" When the members of the church have observed all the prophetic happenings to that point in the Tribulation, they will be certain that not only is God's Word true, but that the return of Christ is truly imminent. How can you reach a higher level of belief than that? I can guarantee that the 5 virgins who lack sufficient oil in their lamps will be as sincere and as committed as any sane person can be. Yet, they still won't have a sufficient level of oil (the Holy Spirit) in their lamps, so as to be able to climb aboard the **Rapture** train. They won't be suffering from insufficient belief. No. They certainly will have enough of that. What they will lack is a mature, fully developed intimate relationship with Jesus. Something which can only be forged by years of in-depth study of His Word. They don't yet know Him well enough to have been permanently adopted into God's family. And, with 50 days remaining until the Rapture, and the departure of Gods' Holy Spirit, they will have insufficient time to get their lamps filled to the required level.

[**Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **19:25 thru 20:50**]

So, the message of this sermon begs the following question; "*Why does modern Christianity teach such a truncated path leading to salvation?*" When clearly, the deeper teachings of the Word of God do not contain such a track. How can we observe our very LORD Jesus taking 3½ years to lead His followers to the Truth, yet accept that salvation can be completed in a few minutes, an hour or even a small number of days. And we cannot fail to miss the fact that Jesus Himself spent **40 days** after His death working to convince His followers and disciples that He is the Truth. Surely, if the process could somehow be condensed, the very people under His direct teaching for those 3½ years would have been the perfect candidates, no? Well, there is an answer to this seemingly difficult dilemma. And most of the immature Christians out there certainly are not going to want to hear the answer. In the next sermon, I will reveal the true driving force behind this apparent quandary. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**