

## ***Spiritual Ceremonies***



### **544) What is a spiritual ceremony?**

- A. A spiritual ceremony is a rite or observance in which God does a work in our hearts. The ceremony has a form or structure and is usually done before a group of witnesses as a testimony.
- B. The work God does in our life is not a result of the ceremony, but of the Holy Spirit who is present to impart to us during the ceremony. The ceremony focuses our attention on what God performed in our life and gives us a memorial so we remember the work that was done.

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples [2] and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." [3] So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. [4] Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." [5] On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. [7] There were about twelve men in all."

ACT 19:1-7 NIV

"When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, [2] "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, [3] and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." [4] So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, [5] and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, [6] to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' [7] tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

JOS 4:1-7 NIV

**545) What is a sacrament?**

- A. A sacrament (or ordinance, as some prefer to call it) is a spiritual ceremony that is given special distinction. A sacrament has a special place because Jesus personally commanded us, as members of the church, to partake of them.

**546) How many sacraments are there?**

- A. There are two spiritual ceremonies that Jesus commanded every Christian to partake of; Water Baptism and Communion.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATT 28:18-20 NIV

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

LUKE 22:19 NIV

"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1COR 11:23-26 NIV

**547) What are the other spiritual ceremonies during which we can receive from God?**

- A. In addition to water baptism and communion, God is present and able to change our hearts during:
1. Marriage
  2. Child dedication
  3. Anointing with oil
  4. Foot washing
  5. Laying on of hands
  6. Confirmation
  7. Ordination
  8. Prophetic Presbytery

**548) How do we receive a spiritual benefit from these ceremonies?**

- A. Exercising an expectant faith opens the door for us to receive what the Spirit of God desires to impart to us during these spiritual ceremonies.

"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they

heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith."

HEB 4:2 NIV

**549) Is the work that God does in our heart automatic?**

- A. No. You can partake of any religious service or ceremony, receive or pray a prayer and have absolutely no spiritual benefit come into your life. Dead works have no effect on your spirit man no matter how expertly they are performed.
- B. God only responds to faith. If you approach God without faith, you will receive nothing from Him. If you submit yourself to God with an expectant heart, God will meet you and do the work in your heart.
- C. Although God performs the work in the spiritual realm, we must often exercise faith and patience before we see the manifestation in the physical realm.

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God."

HEB 6:1 KJV

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

HEB 11:6 NIV

"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."

HEB 6:12 NIV

**550) What do we receive from water baptism?**

- A. We receive circumcision of the heart, that cutting away of the old man. Our old nature is "disarmed" so that we can live for God.

"In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, [12] having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."

COL 2:11-12 NIV

"No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."

ROM 2:29 NIV

**551) What do we receive from communion?**

- A. We partake of intimate fellowship with God and the other members of the body of Christ.
- B. We can also experience healing while in God's presence.

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? [17] Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one

loaf."

1COR 10:16-17 NIV

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

JOHN 6:51 NIV

**552) What do we receive from marriage?**

- A. God takes two individuals and forms a new physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual union.

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' [5] and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

MATT 19:4-6 NIV

**553) What do we receive from child dedication?**

- A. God imparts a blessing of strength and guidance to the child and the parents, so the child might grow up to serve God and fulfill his destiny in God.

"People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. [14] When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. [15] I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." [16] And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

MARK 10:13-16 NIV

**554) What do we receive from anointing with oil?**

- A. We can receive ordination, healing, blessing, and deliverance when we are anointed with oil.

"Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance?"

1SAM 10:1 NIV

"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

JAMES 5:14-15 NIV

**555) What do we receive from foot washing?**

- A. We can experience a breaking of pride and strife and a revelation of servanthood and love for the body of Christ.

"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. [13] "You call me

Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. [14] Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [15] I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. [16] I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. [17] Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

JOHN 13:12-17 NIV

**556) What do we receive from laying on of hands?**

- A. Impartation is a spiritual transfer. We can receive blessing, spiritual revelation, understanding, insight, ordination, gifts, encouragement, strength, healing and deliverance when hands are laid on us.

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

ACTS 19:6 NIV

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

2TIM 1:6 NIV

"His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."

ACT 28:8 NIV

**557) What do we receive from confirmation?**

- A. We can experience a settling, strengthening and establishing of those foundation stones that we have placed in our life by our faith in Jesus Christ.

"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, [3] so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them."

1THESS 3:2-3 NIV

**558) What do we receive from ordination?**

- A. Ordination is recognition of what God has performed in the life of a leader. It is the ceremony by which he is raised to his God-appointed office.

"Paul and Barnabas appointed (ordained, KJV) elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust."

ACT 14:23 NIV

**559) What do we receive from prophetic Presbytery?**

- A. We hear the voice of God pouring into our lives. We might receive any of the following from God: edification, exhortation, comfort, direction, impartation, confirmation, correction or judgement.

## Building Firm Foundations

**"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."**

JOHN 6:63 NIV

**"But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."**

1COR 14:3 NIV

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Homework for Chapter 37

**Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.**

- 1) Is the work of God in our life a result of a ceremony? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

- 2) Is the work God does in our life automatic if we observe spiritual ceremonies?

---

---

- 3) Explain why a sacrament has a special place in the church.

---

---

- 4) List four spiritual ceremonies. Explain what we can receive with faith during each one.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---