

Come Let us Grow Together: The Sign of Circumcision

God gave to Abraham the method of cutting the covenant.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. (Gen 17:10-11)

Circumcision was a visible mark and sign in a man's flesh that he had been separated unto God.

Gentiles become Abraham's Heirs.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: (Rom 4:8-9, 11)

The method of cutting the covenant.

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Col 2:11-14)

How to partake of the New Testament Covenant.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal 3:13-14, 16)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:27, 29)

Who are Christ's? Those who have been born of water and of the Spirit. Those who have repented and been baptized in Jesus name for the remission of sins, and those who have received the promise of the Holy Ghost evidenced by the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance.

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. (Rom 2:28-29)

We are speaking of how we enter into the New Testament Covenant!! This process begins with understanding that just as Abraham received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised, that we to also enter into the New Testament Covenant with a circumcision.

Just as God cut the covenant with Abraham with the sign of circumcision, even so God also cuts the covenant with us in a different way. Instead of it being a circumcision of the flesh, it is a circumcision of the heart.

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (Heb 10:16)

It is important to understand that when the Lord writes His laws into your hearts and into your minds, it comes by the receiving of the Holy Ghost.

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Heb 10:17)

To enter into this covenant one must repent of their sins and be baptized in Jesus name for the remission of their sins. God will have cut the covenant with us because the circumcision of Christ, the circumcision made without hands, takes place when you are buried with Him in baptism. Wherein you have faith in the operation of God who raised up Jesus from the dead.

So when we repent of our sins and get baptized in Jesus name for the remission of our sins, we enter into the New Testament Covenant, just as Abraham entered into the covenant that God gave to him and to his seed after him.

Abraham received the sign of circumcision and was given a promise. We too are circumcised and we too receive a promise. The promise we receive is that we will receive the Holy Ghost. When we receive the Holy Ghost, the Lord, writes His laws in your hearts and in your minds.

Thus you enter into the New Testament Covenant when you repent and are baptized in Jesus name for the remission of your sins. However, you must then receive the promise to complete the fulfilment of the Covenant in which God writes His laws in your hearts and minds.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:13)

You enter into the body of Christ when you receive the Spirit of Christ. Not beforehand. When you are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins you enter into the New Testament Covenant, but are awaiting the promise of the believers, which is the Holy Ghost and how we gain access into the body of Christ.

Understand that it is a promise that you will receive the Spirit of Christ when you have repented of your sins and have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. However, until you receive the Spirit of Christ you are not in the body of Christ. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Rom 8:9b)

Remember we must be born of water and of the Spirit to see or enter into the kingdom of God. (Jn 3:1-7) It is intended that when you repent and get baptized in Jesus name for the remission of your sins, that you then receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. However, we know that many times one repents and gets baptized in Jesus name, but may not receive the Holy Ghost for some time. However, it is a promise of God that they will. God can not lie. It will take place.

If a person repents and gets baptized in Jesus name for the remission of their sins and never receives the Holy Ghost, this is because they were not obedient to God and never kept their repentance. If they truly repented to begin with.

See an example of both a delay in the receiving of the Holy Ghost after believers repented and were baptized in Jesus name for the remission of their sins as well as one who did not receive the gift of the Holy Ghost because he had truly not repented.

Acts 8:13-24

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Here we see the delay. These believers repented of their sins, and were baptized in Jesus name for the remission of their sins, yet the Holy Ghost had fallen upon none of them. It wasn't until Peter and John came down and prayed for them that they received the Holy Ghost.

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Simon also was a believer. He also was baptized in Jesus name. But what went wrong?

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Simon had not truly turned away from his sins. Therefore, the Circumcision of Christ that takes place in the water baptism did not get performed on him because he had not truly repented of his sins. He had not turned away from his sins, but thought to make gain off of selling the Holy Ghost to other people.

Let us be sure that we enter into the New Testament Covenant and receive the promise of God.