

II. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The equal privilege of predestination is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit is classified in several different ways.

Positional Sanctification: By placing the believer into union with Christ the believer is identified with Christ in His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 12:13 - By means of the Holy Spirit, all of us [Paul and the believers being addressed at Corinth] were immersed into one body [baptism of the Holy Spirit placing us "in Christ"], whether Jew or Gentile, slaves or free, we have all been identified with one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:27 - You [Corinthian church] are Christ's body, and individually members of it. This results in the believer being transformed into a new spiritual species.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - If any man is in Christ [positional sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit] he is a new spiritual species; the old things [spiritual death] have passed away, behold, new things [divine operating assets] have come.

Union with Christ: This term associates all believers with all the assets related to Christ in His resurrection:

a. His righteousness:

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ.

b. His life:

1 John 5:11 - God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life.

c. His Sonship:

Galatians 3:26 - You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

d. His heirship:

Romans 8:16 - The Holy Spirit Himself bears witness with our human spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 - and if children, heirs; heirs of God and fellow [or joint] heirs with Christ.

e. His kingship:

Colossians 1:13 - God delivered us from the authority of the Cosmic System of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

f. His priesthood:

1 Peter 2:5 - You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

g. His election:

Ephesians 1:4 - God has elected us in Him before the foundation of the world, in order that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

h. His destiny:

Ephesians 1:5 - God predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to kind intention of His will,

i. His sanctification:

1 Corinthians 1:2 - To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

j. His acceptance:

Ephesians 1:6 - To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein God has made us accepted in the Beloved.

Current Positional Truth: A technical way of stating our positional sanctification. This identifies us with Christ in His resurrection and emphasizes our eternal security in Him.

Top Circle: This is a term which seeks to distinguish our eternal association with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit as contrasted to the Bottom Circle where fellowship is dependent upon post-sin confessional prayer to God, i.e., rebound.

All of these terms serve to explain our equal privilege in God's predetermined plan. When the believer enters the eternal state at the moment of physical death, God's plan for that believer is constructed around the principle that he is identified with Christ in His resurrection. There is also a predetermined plan for the believer between spiritual birth and physical death and this is the equal opportunity of predestination.