

# Life Group Notes 3/30/2025

## Pastor Mark Warren—Baptism

### Sunday

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

**Remember:** Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

***Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.***

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

**Note:** I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 3/30. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote speaks:

1. [On Jesus first thirty years without miracles.](#)
2. [On infant baptism vs. baptism of the believer.](#)

**Important:** At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

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On Baptism week, begin by describing your own baptism, and the differences that act has made.

1. What trials arose?
2. What resolutions?
3. What has changed?
4. What has remained the same?

Mark began his message to make a case for baptism. His first point: Jesus lived thirty years without performing a single miracle or supernatural act. Mark asks why.

1. Answer him.
2. What significance could that have for us?
3. Does something in baptism prepare you for and confirm in you your purpose, your passion and your calling?

Look up Romans 6:3 *Or aren't you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.*

1. What do you see?
2. In what way does this very physical response to the gospel play into our perception of the spiritual call of that gospel?
3. How are we to walk?
4. What changed for Jesus after He was baptized?
5. Did His life become easier, or more challenging?
6. Pastor says, "I'm convinced that when I'm willing to die to myself, when I'm willing to give my all, that there's something so powerful about that act of surrender and submission to Him that it activates something in your life." Do you have a testimony?
7. Is it possible to live for Jesus without dying to ourselves? To what degree?
8. Pastor says, "I believe we were created to reflect the image of Jesus to this world." Explain to what degree our own baptism makes this clear.
9. Can you make the case for a believer's baptism verses infant baptism? (See [footnote 2 below](#) for the discussion from history.)
10. Pastor Mark says surrendering to God becomes the catalyst for God, by the Holy Spirit, to baptize us from within, flooding us with His character in truth and in power. Explain.
11. He says, we are not "declaring our faith," we are "activating our faith." What is the difference?

Rediscover the first invitation to baptism among Christians from Acts 2: **37** When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" **38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **39** This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off—to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself."

1. What do you see?
2. To whom is the promise promised?
3. Does the promise include you? Your children? Your family?
4. Jot down the order you can expect from one act of spontaneous obedience.
5. Write down your own testimony...did this happen to you when you were baptized?
6. What can you begin to expect, seeing the promise?

Review Jesus' promise to believers from Mark 16: **15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well."*

1. What do you see here?
2. What have you already seen of these promises?
3. What do you have to look forward to?
4. What snakes is a believer called and enabled to handle? How do they get into our fellowships?
5. What poisons are served that do not harm those who believe and know their God?

**Follow up application:**

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. If you got baptized on Sunday, write down things that occur to you this week.
3. If you were baptized before, go back to the first days after and recall those promises that came to you that first week. Pray according to those promises.

***Take the time to pray.***

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**Scribe's Footnotes:**

1. **On Jesus' first thirty years without miracles**—There are many writings contemporary to the gospels and epistles that can still be read today. They were rejected early on because of obvious errors they contained. One such “gospel” places the Dead Sea just outside the gates of Jerusalem. The Gospel of Mary is a gnostic “gospel” with Mary as central character, although which Mary is debatable. Another gospel, “The infancy gospel of Thomas,” tells of the boy Jesus who would amuse his friends by fashioning doves out of clay, breathing on them and producing living birds that flew away. Whimsical in nature, this gospel is refuted by John’s claim that water turned to wine was the first miracle. It’s also belied by the fact that the Nazarenes knew Jesus as a boy, the son of the carpenter, not the fabricator of doves.
  2. **On infant baptism vs. baptism of the believer**—The first baptisms recorded biblically were those of John, who baptized all who came to him in the Jordan. Jesus declared that His baptism was to “...fulfill all righteousness.” His was the first, model Christian baptism, and His disciples carried on the work John began, even after John’s arrest. There are no conversions in the New Testament that were not followed by water baptism, and only one, Acts 10, where water baptism followed the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The concept of infant baptism, paedobaptism, came into the church hundreds of years after the establishment of the church, and was not controversial until it was. By the time of the Protestant Reform in 1500, with both Calvin and Luther, paedobaptism was not controversial. An issue was raised by another group of protestants, called “anabaptists” (meaning “the re-Baptists...” because they insisted on entering the waters of baptism as an act of the individual’s will, and not that of his parents, even if it meant getting baptized a second time.) The anabaptists were hated by both Catholics and Protestants alike to such a degree that they were hunted and persecuted to the death by both sects. Some escaped and found their way to help found the colonies of North America. Wikipedia covers the topic well. Here are two links for further study. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infant\\_baptism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infant_baptism) and <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-christians-know-paedobaptism.html> There are more studies that are easy to find on line.
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**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Mark 1:9-13
Tuesday: Matthew 3:13-4:3
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
Thursday: Romans 6:3-7
Friday: Galatians 3:26-29
Saturday: Acts 2:37-39
Sunday: Philippians 3:8-11

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.