

DOCTRINE OF POSITIONAL TRUTH

Apr. 27, 2020

1. Positional truth is the resultant status of a believer at the moment he or she receives the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**. This dry baptism is one of the six ministries of the Holy Spirit at the moment of regeneration, the new birth. These ministries include the following:
 - A. **Regeneration**: (John 3:1-16; Titus 3:5)
 1. Entrance into the family of God. (Eph. 2:19; 3:15; 4:15; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 1:6)
 2. Reception of a human spirit. (John 3:6; 2 Cor. 5:17; Jude 19; 1 John 3:9)
 - B. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**: (Acts 1:5; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5)
 1. Entrance into the Royal Family of God: (Gal. 6:10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6)
 2. Spirit baptism provides the means of entry into union with Christ.
 - C. **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**: (Eph. 4:3 - unity of the Royal Family; John 7:37-39; Rom. 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19, 20; Gal. 3:2; 1 John 3:24)
 1. It is the sign or badge of royalty. It is the Royal Family “**coat of arms**,” the royal escutcheon. (Eph. 4:3-6)
 2. The Holy Spirit comes to indwell every cell of the body of a believer.
 3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the basis for the “filling or enabling of the Holy Spirit,” moment by moment, which counteracts the operation of the “Old Sin Nature.” (Rom. 6:6; 7:17; 8:2, 3; Eph. 2:3; 4:22)
 - D. **Filling of the Holy Spirit**: (The moment by moment enabling of the Holy Spirit) (Acts 10:44, 47; 13:52)
 1. Filling of the Holy Spirit is “*walking according to the Spirit.*” (Rom. 8:4, 5; Rom. 8:13, 14; Gal. 5:25)
 2. Believers are commanded to “*be filled with the Spirit.*” (Gal. 5:18; Eph. 5:18)
 - E. **Sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit**: (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30; also 2 Tim. 2:19)
 1. This ministry provides eternal security for the believer, a guarantee of royalty forever. (2 Tim 1:12; 1 John 5:13; cf. John 10:28-30)
 2. The believer is secure in Christ in God. (Col. 1:27; Heb. 6:19)
 - F. **Giving at least one Spiritual Gift**: (1 Cor. 12:7, 11; 27-31; 13:1, 2)
 1. These are the “spoils of Jesus’ victory.” (Eph. 4:7-10)
 2. These provide for the believer’s function in the Christian life as “ambassadors for Christ.” (2 Cor. 5:20)
2. The grammatical basis for this doctrine is found in such passages as the following:
 - A. “**in Christ**”- (Greek - ἐν Χριστῷ) (Eph. 1:1, 3, 10, 12, 20; 3:6, 11; Rom. 6:11; 2 Cor. 5:17)
 - B. “**in Him**”- (Gk. – ἐν αὐτῷ) (Eph. 1:4, 9, 10)
 - C. “**in whom**” - (Gk. – ἐν ᾧ) (Eph. 1:7, 13)
 - D. “**in the Beloved**” - (Gk. – ἐν τῷ ἡγαπημένῳ) (Eph. 1:6)
 - E. “**in the Lord Jesus**” - (Gk. – ἐν τῷ κυριῷ Ἰησοῦ) (Eph. 1:1)

3. Positional truth **belongs to** the carnal as well as to the spiritual believer; to the apostate believer as well as to the mature believer. (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 3:1)
4. Positional truth **protects the believer** from divine judgment in eternity. (Rom. 8:1; Rev. 20:1-15)
5. Positional truth **qualifies us** as the believers to live with our righteous God forever, possessing eternal life, because we have the imputation of His righteousness. (1 John 5:11, 12; Rom. 4:5, 22-24; 2 Cor. 5:21)
6. Positional truth is **the key to both election** and predestination. (Eph. 1:3-7ff; Rom. 8:1, 28-30, 38, 39; cf. Isa.42:1)
7. Positional truth makes the believer into a **new creature in Christ**. (2 Cor. 5:17; This is a grace operation not as the result of any works. (Eph. 2:8-10)
8. Positional truth **guarantees the eternal security** of the believer. (John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:38, 39)
9. Positional truth is classified in three categories:
 - A. **Retroactive positional truth** – identification with Christ in His spiritual death, His physical death, and burial, which connotes payment for sins and rejection of, separation from, and death of human good works. (Rom. 6:3-5a; Col. 2:12; 2:20; Col. 3:3)
 - B. **Current positional truth** – identification with Christ in His strategic victory; (resurrection, ascension, and session, being seated at the right hand of God. (Rom. 6:5b, 8-11; 8:1, 2; Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1, 3, 4)
 - C. **Experiential positional truth** – the believer’s position in time,
 1. Walking in the filling of the Holy Spirit (walking in the light). (Eph. 5:8, 18; 1 John 1:7; Rom. 8:4, 5; 13b, 14; Gal. 5:16, 18, 25)
 2. Christ dwells in the believer. (Rom. 8:10; Col. 1:27; Eph. 3:16, 17)
 3. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer – (Rom. 8:9, 11)
10. Current positional truth implies that the believer shares at least 25 things in union with Christ:
 - A. Eternal life (1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 6:23)
 - B. Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - C. Election (Eph. 1:4, 5; cf. Isa. 42:1)
 - D. Destiny (Eph. 1:5) NOTE: “as a wife shares the destiny of her husband” Eph. 5:22-24)
 - E. Sonship (John 1:12; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 3:26; 1 John 3:1, 2); Adopted sons (Eph. 1:5, 6)
 - F. Heirship (Rom. 8:17; Gal 3:29; 4:7; Eph.1:11, 14; 3:6; Titus 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4)

- G. Sanctification (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Eph. 1:4)
 - H. Kingship (Col. 1:13, 14; 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 1:6; 20:6)
 - I. Priesthood (Heb. 4:16; 10:10-14; 1 Pet. 2:5-9; Rev. 1:6)
 - J. Accepted (Eph. 1:3, 4, 6)
 - K. Circumcised (Col. 2:11)
 - L. Liberty (Gal. 2:4)
 - M. No condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
 - N. One body (Rom. 12:5)
 - O. The love of God (Rom. 8:39; 1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:13)
 - P. Redemption ((Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7)
 - Q. New creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - R. Reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:19)
 - S. Baptized (Rom. 6:3, 5, 11; Gal. 3:27)
 - T. The glory of His Grace (Eph. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:1)
 - U. God's will (Eph. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:18)
 - V. Every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
 - W. His death (Rom. 6:3, 5a, 8; 2 Tim. 2:11)
 - X. His burial (Rom. 6:4, 6; Col. 2:12a)
 - Y. His resurrection (Rom. 6:5b; Col 2:12b)
11. The characteristics of positional truth are these:
- A. It is not a physical experience - either emotional or ecstatic; it is a judicial position.
 - B. It is not progressive; it cannot be improved over time or in eternity.
 - C. It is not related to human merit, ability, or human good.
 - D. It is eternal in nature. (Rom. 8:38, 39)
 - E. It is understood only through the word of God.
 - F. It is obtained en toto at the moment of Salvation.
12. The implications of positional truth are part of the multiple blessing believers receive at the moment of Salvation.