

Teaching Orthodoxy...using Bible Verses Lesson 7:

We must start our life over...we must be born again by Water (Holy Baptism) and the Spirit (Holy Chrismation)

Do you not know that your bodies are **temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have **received** from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinth. 6:19-20

the **glory that will be revealed in us**. Romans 8:18

Then the righteous will **shine like the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. Matthew 13:43

Those who are wise will **shine like the brightness** of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, **like the stars** for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3

By **believing** and **receiving** Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we are **empowered by God** to become God's children.

But as many as **received** Him [Christ], to them **gave He power to become** the sons of God, even to them that **believe** on His name: John 1:12

Through this **Divine Power** (i.e. Grace of the Holy Spirit, Divine Enablement), we can and **must start our life over**...we must be **born again**...born from above.

Jesus answered and said unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**. John 1:13

It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been **transformed into a new creation**. Gal. 6:15

Therefore **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! 2 Cor. 5:17

[*New Living Translation*: “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”]

This **rebirth**—this new creation—comes through **Holy Baptism with Water** and **Holy Chrismation** (the Gift of the Holy Spirit):

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” John 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

[“regeneration” means “rebirth”; hence Baptism is a holy washing that gives a person a rebirth]

This is a **REAL event**, not just a nominalistic* symbol. In Holy Baptism, the Apostles taught that **we actually “put on Christ”**.

For **as many of you** as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. Gal. 3:27 [“Baptized” = to submerge, dip, sink, wash]

[***Nominalism** is human philosophy which says spiritual things such as Sacraments “are not real, but are **only ‘noms’, or names**”. Nominalism is a heretical rationalistic skeptical way of denying, step by step, everything Christ taught the Apostles. But for the Orthodox, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is a REAL EVENT, a true Mystery, a meeting of God and one’s soul.]

In the **Holy Mystery of Baptism**, we participate in the victorious reality of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. We actually **UNITE with Christ**. We put HIM ON. **We put GOD on**. United to Him, His victory becomes ours.

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 live a new life. Romans 6:4

Having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him** through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Col. 2:12