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Holy Sealing: the baptism with the Holy Spirit

Objective

The confirmands believe that, through the rebirth out of water and the Spirit, the individual receives childhood in God and the prerequisite for becoming a firstling. They know that by receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, they have obtained the pledge of future glory.

Contents

Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit — the seal of childhood in God.
The prerequisites for Holy Sealing.
The new creation.
The Eighth Article of Faith.

1 Lead-in

Ask

How does a person receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Hint

The confirmands describe how a Holy Sealing is performed. Using key words the confirmation teacher writes this on the board. He then asks whether by way of exception this was done differently in biblical times. If necessary he mentions the relevant events to help the confirmands to find answers. This continues until the list of answers includes the following points:

- While praying, an Apostle places his hands upon the person and speaks the words: "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
- A rushing sound came down from heaven, divided tongues like fire appeared, and the Holy Spirit filled the believers.
- The Holy Spirit was directly poured out upon the believers.

Explain

These answers concern various external forms of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The following points are what is essential:

The events at Pentecost

On Pentecost there was a rushing sound from heaven, and divided tongues like fire appeared to the assembled believers. The Holy Spirit filled all of those who had gathered in the name of Jesus (cf. Acts 1: 4-8; 2: 1-4).

Cornelius receives the Holy Spirit

Cornelius and his household were the first Gentiles to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit directly from God while Apostle Peter spoke to them (cf. Acts 10). God thereby showed Apostle Peter that both Jews and Gentiles can receive salvation.



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Apostles seal with the gift of the Holy Spirit

In the early church Apostles dispensed the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer (cf. Acts 8: 15–17).

During the nineteenth century the first Apostles of the last times were called through prophecies in England. Today Apostles of Jesus Christ are active in the New Apostolic Church. They seal believing people around the world with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In this way they are fulfilling their commission (cf. Matthew 28: 19–20).

2 Becoming God's child through Holy Sealing

Ask

How can one enter God's kingdom?

Elaborate on answers through further questions

The Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3: 5). He was referring to the prerequisites to enter God's kingdom.

Through the rebirth of water and the Holy Spirit

One element of the rebirth is Holy Baptism with water (cf. Lesson 21). Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is the other. Through the rebirth out of water and the Spirit, a human being receives childhood in God and the prerequisite for becoming a firstling. Through Holy Sealing one becomes a member of the New Apostolic Church.

A student reads aloud

I believe that those baptised with water must, through an Apostle, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to attain the childhood in God and thereby the prerequisite for becoming a firstling.

3 The development of the new life

Explain

Through Holy Sealing, a human being receives childhood in God and the prerequisite for becoming a firstling. Through Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing, we become a new creation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5: 17; James 1: 18). This creation must, however, also be permitted to develop within us.

Workbook exercise A

The confirmands now answer the questions in exercise A in their workbook. They list the elements which are required for a plant and a child to develop. Afterwards their answers are discussed and supplemented.

Ask

What does a plant require to be able to grow?

Listen to answers and supplement

It requires air, water, warmth, light, and nutrients. Every form of life requires very specific basic conditions to be able to unfold and develop.

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Ask

What conditions are required in for a child to develop positively?

Listen to answers and supplement

A child requires: love, food and clothing, light, a home, someone to speak with, care and time, upbringing, education and training.

Workbook exercise B

The confirmands now answer the question in exercise B in their workbook. They list the elements which are necessary for the life from God to develop. Afterwards their answers are discussed and supplemented.

Ask

What are the prerequisites for the life from God to develop?

Listen to answers and supplement

The following are required in order for the life of God—that is, the new creation—to develop within us: the love of our heavenly Father, the word of the sermon, the forgiveness of sins, Holy Communion, divine help on our way of life, fellowship in the house of God, God's counsel, God's care when we pray, education and training for the royal priesthood.

Explain

The new creation is developing within us. This life must be clearly revealed within us and through us. It must produce fruit. We are all to develop and “come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4: 13).

4 The joy of the Lord is our strength

Elaborate

As God's children we have every reason to be joyful. We have a heavenly Father who cares for us in earthly matters, but above all spiritually. However, we have another reason to be joyful: through Holy Sealing we possess the hope that we will be accepted at the return of Christ.

Ask

What does a bride do during the time of preparation before her wedding?

Listen to answers and supplement

Because she loves her bridegroom she

- often speaks with him of their future together,
- seeks to be near him and wants to please him,
- concerns herself with her wedding gown,
- looks forward to her wedding day, and
- longs to always be together with him.

Elaborate

Here too parallels are to be drawn to the spiritual sphere. The confirmands are again to be made aware of Jesus' promise: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14: 3).



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The main points

I also want toallow the life of God to develop within me!

Homework The confirmands learn the Eighth Article of Faith by heart.

