

# What is True Baptism?

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You will not find God coming from anybody who speaks from his personality or from his ego. God alone is the Sole Doer. The Cosmic Dream, of course, is His Doing. And those who speak from ego consciousness speak in the realm of the cosmic duality of consciousness. But behind that is the One Christ Consciousness; and those through whom God uses, that that Christ Consciousness may speak, they speak from that Source; not from outward consciousness. And so, it behooves us to understand True Baptism, that we perfect ourselves, and fit ourselves to be instruments of God's Great Consciousness.

Now, so Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world."<sup>1</sup> So, by cultivation of that One, Underlying, Permea, Permeating, Eternal, Everlasting, All-fulfilling Consciousness of God Himself in us, by cultivation of that, then we can know and enter into the kingdom of which Jesus spoke. Realize that. That's why it is so necessary, necessary to understand True Baptism, that we daily be baptized in this One, All-pervading Light and Presence of God. That's the One, Underlying Consciousness. That's Christ Consciousness, if we just, are baptized, once a week in it, so to speak, that's good. But if we, every day, merge in it, become one with it, we cannot but help know that underlying Christ Consciousness. And so, I think, the lesson we can learn this morning is that True Baptism, merging in the One Eternal Presence of God, should not be a sporadic affair; should be a daily – yes, hourly – merging in the Presence of God. That's True Baptism.

And so, Jesus said those words: "My kingdom is not of this world." But it can be known while we are here in this world. There's no question, that those who meditate deeply, with sincerity in their hearts, and put aside all dross of worldly consciousness, which is in the hearts of people; they'll have no difficulty in finding the One God within. But it is those who cannot do that; they're in delusion. They are the ones that do not know this wonderful kingdom of God, which is within.

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<sup>1</sup> John 18:36, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

But those who are humble, and look to the, as the Master used to say, "Correct yourselves; clean up your own thinking; clean up your own consciousness; you'll find God." Those are the ones, who really, God shines upon, and blesses. Let us realize that, if we wanna be truly baptized. We have to be humble; pure in heart. "The pure in heart shall see God (sic)."<sup>2</sup> Not those who have hard dross in their hearts; they will not know God. But the pure, and the humble, who see in others, not their imperfections, but they see God in them; they are the ones who will know the kingdom of God.

In St. John, what do we read? In the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter, 12<sup>th</sup> Verse: "[Verily,] verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do he shall [he] do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

In other words, then Jesus meant that his Christ Consciousness would be resolved into the One All-pervading Presence of God, beyond Creation and, therefore, he would not be known as he was in the body of Jesus. But the important point is this. "Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me..." he, who by regular meditation, and the baptism of the Presence of God, merges and knows that same consciousness from which Jesus spoke; he will do the same things, and greater things than Jesus did. That is what Jesus meant by "believing on me." Merging in the same Consciousness which Jesus had; being One with it, and allowing God to manifest through you. He cannot manifest through, as the Master used to say, "A broken radio machine." It has to be perfect. And it will be perfect by daily, hourly, so to speak, baptism in that One, Eternal Presence of God, which manifests as the Christ Consciousness.

And so, these things are simple, if we will but realize them. But the delusion is very engulfing; that we must admit. And so, that's why Jesus pointed the way of the greatest compassion, because of this darkening effect of delusion, when he said, "...Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."<sup>3</sup> There they were speaking against God Himself, when they spoke against Jesus, and crucified him. But he could see that it was the effect of delusion, and so he said, "Father forgive them; they know not what they do."

So there are two kinds; two baptisms: One by water, as we understand it; and one by Spirit, by the Fire of the Holy Ghost.

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

<sup>3</sup> Luke 23:34, "Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and casts lots."

Now the first baptism, with water, is more a physiological process. It does clean the body, and it gets rid of the waste material when you're baptized; and in water, and it does have an effect of toning up the system. It is good. But, surely, unless it is followed by True Baptism, by the Real Spiritual Baptism, it is of little avail. Baptism by water is more symbolic; but it does have its good cleansing, and purifying, and calming effect through psychological means, physiological means.

And so, understand that, that unless this baptism by water is followed by the Real Baptism, by the Baptism of the Presence of God within you as the Fire of the Holy Ghost, you are not baptized truly. So, True Baptism means to receive, in a conscious way, the Presence of the One Holy Vibration, the One Holy Ghost, the Great Cosmic Sound, the Great Light of the Infinite; greatest of all, to feel and be permeated by the Great Love of the One Father. Don't you think that's True Baptism? And so, unless we supersede the ordinary baptism by water by this Spiritual Baptism, we are faw, falling far short of what we should do. True Baptism means, Baptism by the Holy Ghost.

And so, although the body and mind are temporarily cleaned and purified by this baptism by water; unless it is followed by an understanding, and a merging in the Reality of Existence, which is God Himself as the Holy Vibration, it falls far short of True Baptism. And the worst of it is, when you baptize by water, and you feel good, and clean, and calm; you don't get very far up from the bank, on the bank, before the bad habits come back in, and get after you again. So let's be baptized in the right way, where we do away with those things; supersede the consciousness wherein these bad habits and latent tendencies bother us, by feeling, and merging, and knowing, in a conscious way, the Presence of God, to such a deep extent that those other things cannot remain. That's the only way for Salvation is True Baptism.

And so, True Baptism means: to merge again and again, realize it, to merge again and again – not just on Sunday, or on Thursday night, or Wednesday night, or whatever night it is – but again and again, to merge in the Holy Vibration, the Word of God. The Word of God is the Om, the Amen, the Holy Vibration. Why? "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> St. John 1:1

Now, if you merge in that, how can you miss? You cannot. But we don't do it. Even though we sit in meditation, how much of the time is in that Holy Vibration? Stop and think. How much of the time? Don't feel bad, because everybody goes through the same thing. Very little of the time. But when it does get in, it does its work. And, if you keep at it, through the law of averages – I say in Hollywood, if you keep ringing the doorbells you're bound to sell something – and so, if you keep ringing the doorbells of God's House, He's gonna answer sometime.

So, realize that's a good thing to remember. Keep ringing the doorbell, even though they get their foot in, you can get your foot in the door; or the house may throw you out. Never mind. Keep at it. Sometime you're gonna get in aren't cha? So let us daily, regularly, keep at it. That's the only thing that I found was the answer – to keep at it – regularly, sometime, as Lahiri Mahasaya said, "Striving, striving, striving, one day the Divine Goal (sic)<sup>5</sup>." That's just as sure as we live, and move, and have our being. So that's what True Baptism means, to keep at it.

In St. John we read, and this is un, this is, should be remembered now. In St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Verse. You've heard it many times. Hear it again. "...Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining..."<sup>6</sup> That's what Jesus meant when he said, "He who believeth on me." How can you believe anybody, or have any faith in anybody, unless you know them. And so, on whom you see "...the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." How can you have something unless you merge in it? How can you give it to others, unless you are that, by the Grace of God, and His Presence flows through you? Only when you can do that, can you help others.

And so, the first thing for each and every one of us, is to realize that we must over, and over, and over, and over, and over again, be baptized, and merge in that One Great Light and Presence of God. That's True Baptism. Nothing else will do.

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<sup>5</sup> Chapter 27, Page 259, Autobiography of a Yogi, Revision 1951, Paramhansa Yogananda, footnote "One of Lahiri Mahasaya's favorite remarks with which he would encourage his students to persevere in meditation. It is literally: "making, making, some day made." One may freely translate the thought as: "Striving, striving, one day behold! The Divine Goal."

<sup>6</sup> St. John 1:33, "And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptiseth with the Holy Ghost."

And so, by, by this continual being baptized in the Holy Presence of God, what happens? Only one thing can happen. Your consciousness will be superseded by the All-pervading Christ Consciousness, which has produced each and every one of us. You will supersede this worldly, transient, unsatisfactory consciousness of outward existence, by the Realization of the Unity of all things, which does not change, always was, always will be. And in that Consciousness you will find All-fulfillment. And nobody can shake you out of that. They can say all manner of things against you, as it says in The Book, the Good Book, the Bible, blessed are those when people shall talk against you, so to speak. And say all manner of things against you<sup>7</sup>. Let 'em talk. God is with you. Who can shake you from that?

True Baptism will give you that Realization and confidence that God is with you. Nothing else matters. That's why True Baptism is so important. And it is the birthright of each and every one of us to have that friendship with God; to have that personal relationship with God, which no one can shake. That's the only thing that stands. Everything else will pass away; all position and power in life; all money; all the things that people think about you will pass away, whether they're good or bad. But what God thinks about you, will not pass away. That's True Baptism. That's what we want, and that's what we're gonna get, by the Grace of God, and perhaps, a little of our own effort. So True Baptism is a wonderful thing.

Now, our Master has written these wonderful words. If you listen to them, you will understand, clearly, the necessity of True Baptism. And this is what he says in his teachings. "When the wave, when the wave feels itself isolated from the sea..." Realize now, what you're saying – your wave of God's Great Consciousness and His Power – now, "when the wave," the Master says, "feels isolated from the sea, the boundaries of the waves," or egos "must be expanded until they take on the shape of the sea." How simple. That's what True Baptism is: expanding your consciousness by knowing the right way so that your consciousness, as the wave, expands and takes on the boundaries of the sea. Isn't that wonderful? Realize that simple thing, as the Master said, and then do it. Get at it regularly.

Here's an opportunity in this Christmas, when there's a chance to lift your consciousness due to the united effort of all, no matter how great or small the

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 5:11, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

effort, to know that One, Underlying Consciousness of God. Take advantage of that. Come to the church here. Meditate. Meditate in your homes. Let us make hay, so to speak, while the Sun of God's Presence, Love, shines upon us.

And so, we have to break, we have to break the limiting boundaries of the wave of ego consciousness. Why? Why? Because we feel separated from God, that's all; there's an idea we're separated from God. But when you break that limiting boundary of ego consciousness by following one who had that Unity with God's Presence, as our beloved Master, you will feel just as he said. Instead of your boundaries being limited by this little ego consciousness and personality, it'll be Unlimited, as God's Omniscience and His Consciousness is Unlimited. And the idea that you are separated from God will absolutely pass away. And there's nothing that will give you so much joy; there's nothing that will give you so much strength; there's nothing that will give you so much the thankfulness that God somehow remembered you; as to feel Oneness with His Great Sea of Light and Bliss. True Baptism gives us that. And so, we must break the limiting boundaries. That's why we say, "Thou and I never apart." In your deep meditations you feel that; you feel that – "Thou and I never apart."

Up in Hollywood, Friday night, we had a wonderful meditation, as we do here in Encinitas, and also, here in the church. Any meditation, it doesn't make any difference. But, if you go deep, and put your will into it, and expand your consciousness through this point [the Spiritual Eye between the eyebrows] into the Light, you will see the Shining Presence of God: "Thou and I never apart."

And when you see that Light, spread all around, and that you are that Light, and part of it; then you can say and know, "By Thy Grace, O Father, Thou and I, never apart." Even if it slips a little bit during the activity of this Cosmic Dream – back you get into that Great Presence of God; "Thou and I never apart – Thou and I never apart." That's an actuality. And realize, when you see and perceive that, that that's far above ego consciousness; far above this worldly existence; far above personality. God does not tolerate anybody that worships outward things. But when you want Him, and wanna know the Giver of all gifts; He never refuses that. Such is His Greatness; such is His Goodness.

God is what? God is our, His Consciousness, plus the Power of that Consciousness. God is Consciousness; Cosmic Consciousness plus Its Energy, or Cosmic Energy. What are we? Same thing; circumscribed, that's all, by limitations and your own consciousness, which you feel is God's Consciousness and the own power, which you know in yourself as Life Force, is His

Consciousness – limited. Break those limitations and what do you have? God’s Cosmic Consciousness plus Its Power – His Great Omniscient Love. That’s what we are. That’s what we must never forget.

What? We are attached to the body? Attached to the body? That Great Consciousness of God is this Cosmic Dream. Break the attachment. What is it? “The Great Ocean,” as the Master used to say, “The Ocean of God’s Great Presence beyond this duality; the Light beyond the atoms; the Great All-pervading Light of God.” That’s what we are. Limited, we’re nothing but a little cog in this Cosmic Dream. Break the Dream by True Baptism, and you’ll realize that you are One with the only Consciousness there is. The only Power there is, God Himself. He’s in each and every one of us.

And so, how to consciously break the Dream? That’s the question. True Baptism; not just once in awhile – but daily. Daily; if you merge with God you become like Him, without question of a doubt. Break the limiting consciousness that you are this ego, by daily, daily making it a must that you contact that Great Sea of God’s Presence, the Great Christ Consciousness within each and every one of us. That’s the only way to be truly baptized, is to merge in that which cleanses us – which saves us. This outward consciousness does not save us, I’m sure of that, and I know you all know that. But there is one thing that does, and that’s God’s All-pervading Consciousness and Love. That’s within us, and, if we merge in it, we are bound to become like it.

As it says in Titus, in the 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter, 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Verse: “Not by works of righteousness...” Not by doing all the good things; feeding people and giving people this and that. That won’t do it. But it says: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing ~~and~~ of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

How can you renew the Holy Ghost except you merge in His Presence by True Baptism? That’s the only way; that’s the only way you’re gonna be saved. Forget all the other things. They’re good. But do the first thing first, is ta know God. Knowing Him, you will be truly baptized; being truly baptized, feeling, you’ll have everything you need; and greatest of all, you’ll have the Comforter. The Comforter, which Jesus said, I will send when I’m gone<sup>8</sup>, and the Comforter

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<sup>8</sup> St. John 15:26, “But when the Comforter is come, who I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me;”

is none else than the Great Holy Vibration of God, because in that is His Great Intelligence, His Great Love, His Great Fulfilling Power.

Nothing else will satisfy the heart of man – because man is made in the Image of God – except to once more know and be in that Holy Vibration. Then the Comforter will come unto him. Then, as it says in the Bible, that that Comforter will tell you everything you need to know<sup>9</sup>. Give you all things you need to know, and greatest of all, give you the realization that you are not separated from God. You and God are one; “Thou and I, O Father, Thou and I, never apart.”

And so, True Baptism means, that once more, once more, we will know, beyond question of a doubt, that it is God who is in our own hearts and consciousness. And then, when He is with us, who can be against us? True Baptism means to make God a personal thing with you, the greatest thing in your life. If God is with you, and you are truly baptized in Him, day by day, everything will be yours. God knows your every want, and you will have Peace, and Joy, and Bliss.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.