



Have You Washed Today?

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Preview

We know our physical bodies need to be washed everyday or we'll start to stink. Just like our physical bodies, our spiritual bodies need daily washing as well. Today's lesson discusses three types of spiritual washing. We need to be washed by the water, the word, and the blood.

Praise

Can you think of a time when the Spirit of God washed you and made you clean and like new? Does anyone want to thank God for washing them free from the ways of the past?

Parable

I have two dogs, Danny and Darla. I remember one particular day they were playing outside chasing squirrels. When I let them into the house I smelled a horrible smell. It made me feel sick. I picked up Darla, my go-to troublemaker, and asked her what she had gotten into that made her smell so bad. Of course she didn't answer—she's a dog—but she looked at me with those big eyes that said, "It isn't me, Mom!" And it wasn't her.

I picked up Danny, and to my horror he had rolled in something. I won't tell you what it was; I don't want to make you sick. I'll just say that thinking about it right now is making me feel sick again. I immediately put Danny into the tub and turned the water on.

Being the good dog-mom that I am, I always wash Danny and Darla in the tub together. It saves time and keeps them both on the same "clean" schedule. Normally Darla runs and hides as soon as she hears me turn the water on in the tub and call her name. This day was different.

I only called her name once. I barely stepped out of the bathroom when little Darla came running down the hall, rounded the corner, ran into the bathroom, and jumped and slid into the tub of water!

I was so surprised at her action. It was as if she was saying, "Mom, we stink! This is horrible. I don't want to smell this bad! Wash me!"



We should be like Darla when it comes to having our souls washed clean. There is no shame in running to God and crying, “I stink, wash me!” God knows we stink. We don’t have to try to stink. Sooner or later, we will stink without us doing a single thing to make us stink. It happens naturally.

In **Isaiah 65:5**, God says that people who are self-righteous are a “stench” or a “burning” in His nostrils. Darla wasn’t the dog that rolled in the nastiness, but she still knew she needed cleansing. We all need spiritual cleansing. We don’t have to do anything “bad” to need spiritual cleansing. Sooner or later, without being washed, we all stink spiritually.

Present

The Bible talks about three means by which we can be cleansed spiritually: the water, the word, and the blood.

In **Ephesians 5:25-27**, the Bible says that Jesus gave up His life for the church, and washes His people and makes them holy through the word. It is through the Word of God that our minds are cleansed from the filthiness of sin. Reading the Bible removes carnality and replaces it with spiritually pure words. Our minds can be cleansed from evil through reading the Bible.

In **Acts 22:16**, the Bible says that when we are baptized in water, and call on the name of the Lord Jesus, our sins are washed away. Baptism spiritually cleanses us from our past and cleans the slate of our soul. With baptism in Jesus’ name, we can move forward into new life as a part of the new-birth experience.

Revelation 1:5 says that Jesus washes us from our sins in His blood. **Revelation 7:14** says there will be people that wash their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. To our natural minds, when we think of washing a garment in blood, there is no way it would turn out white. But these verses aren’t about our natural clothing; they are about our spiritual clothing—what we wear in the spirit. Do you have on dirty clothes, spiritually? Do you wear guilt, shame, bitterness, jealousy, or unforgiveness?

In the natural, blood stains clothes and can never be fully removed. No matter how much someone cleans a garment, if there ever was blood there, there is a way to find out. Spiritually, Jesus’ blood represents the sinless sacrifice He made to redeem us from our punishment from sin—to redeem us from Hell. When we ask the Lord to wash us in His blood, we are asking for



His sinless blood to cover up our sins and blot them out. Jesus becomes our personal Savior when His blood covers our life.

Pactice

Has anyone in here experienced being washed by the word, the water, or the blood? How did your experience make you feel? Is it important to you to wash everyday physically and spiritually? Can you take some time everyday to wash your mind through the water of the word by reading the Bible?

Pray

Pray for students to see their need to be washed spiritually by the word, the water, and the blood. Ask God to open their understanding and allow them to be honest about how they “smell” spiritually.

Plus

Lather, rinse, repeat. So when you are in the shower today or tomorrow or any day this week, think about how just because you took a shower yesterday doesn't exempt you from washing again today. As you wash in the natural, ask God to wash you spiritually and show you what to do to be a “sweet smell” in the nostrils of God (**II Corinthians 2:15**).