

Greater Things

Description

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Mark 1:1-13

John the Baptist's baptism of repentance was attractive. However, John directed their attention toward a deeper spiritual reality—the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Consider John's statement in Mark 1:8: "But he [the coming Messiah] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In contrast to a symbolic washing in water, Jesus brought the certainty of a thorough cleansing by the Spirit. Think of it this way: Forgiveness is a prelude to the stately symphony the Spirit will conduct in and through our lives. Forgiveness is a gate that opens to the possibility of a transformed life, a life filled with the beauty of holiness.

What about "church culture" today? Everybody likes to be forgiven and the warm feeling of forgiveness. The danger can be in getting too wrapped up in the feeling. We can too easily become attached to an emotion, and in the process, sacrifice our higher calling. We can miss the greater things of God.

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