

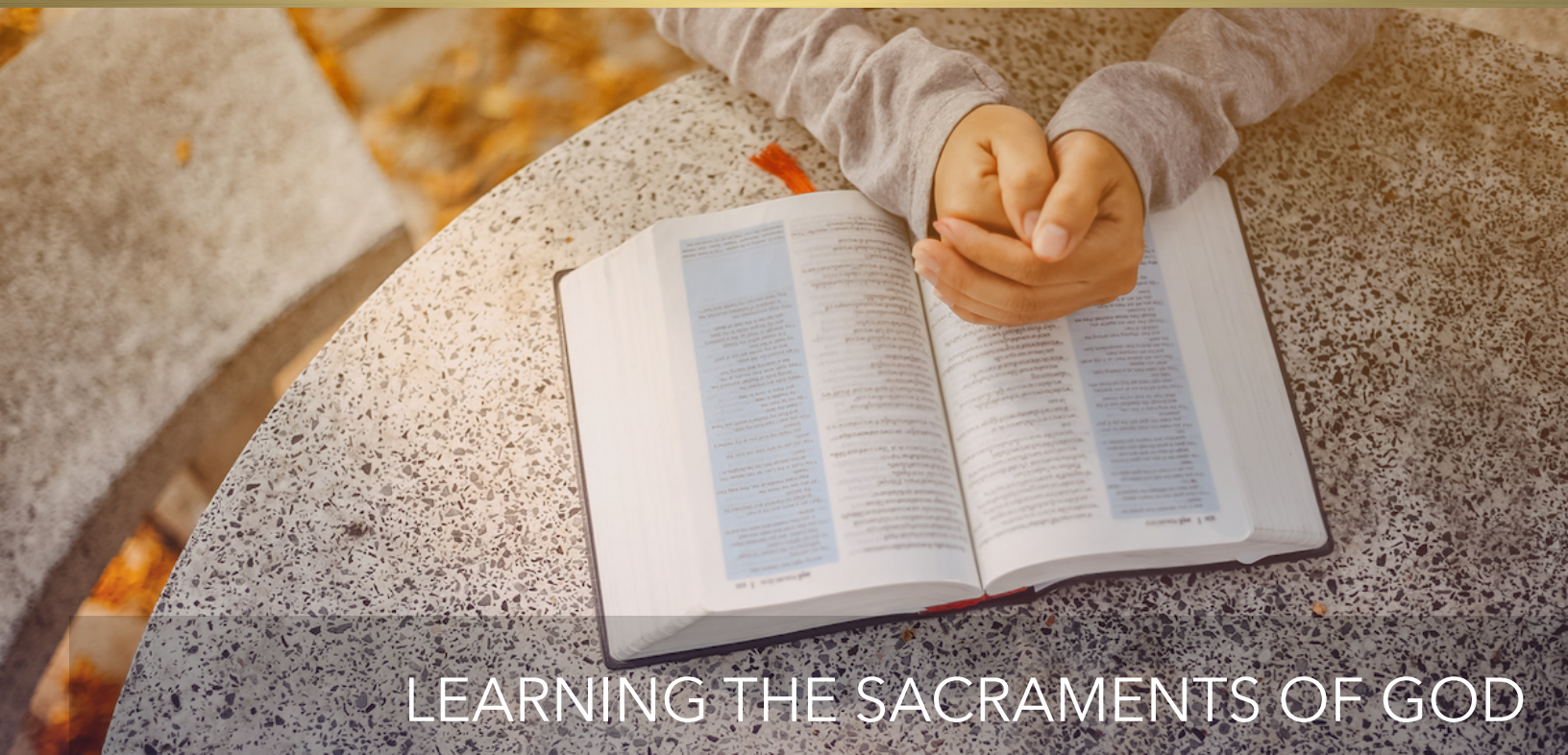


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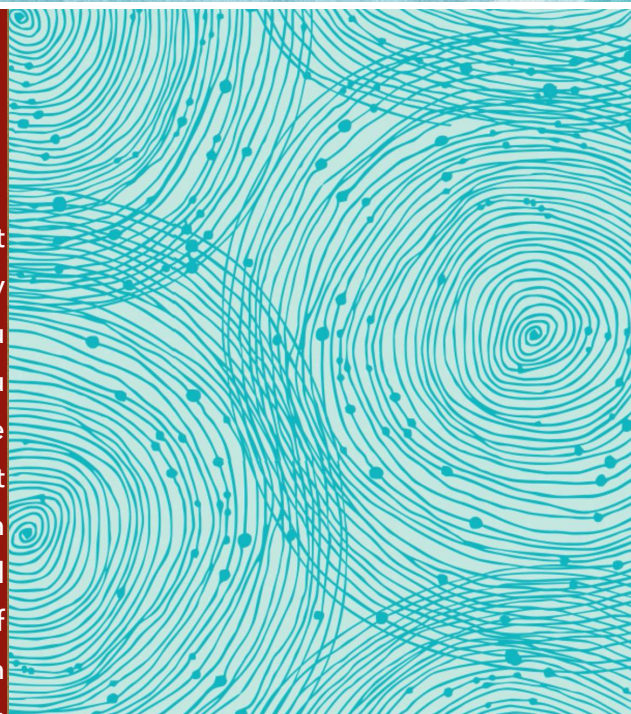


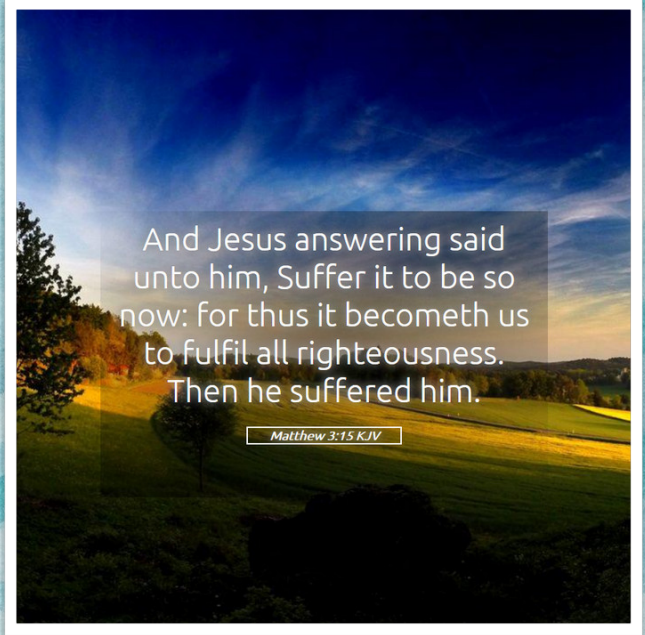
LEARNING THE SACRAMENTS OF GOD

SACRAMENTS

WRITTEN BY: EVELYN C. POINTER, ELDER

"What is a sacrament? It is a sign of sanctification and perfection that represents sacrifices of righteousness. Sacraments are ordained by God, and are ritualistically practiced. A sacrament cannot make you perfect. Baptism, foot washing and hand washing cannot make you clean before God. You must have a sincere heart and a sincere desire to become like Christ, for a sacrament to have any meaning at all. Christ said that it is not those things that come into a person that makes them unclean, but those things that come out of a person, because evil deeds come from the heart. He said also that we must be born again of the spirit, and that we must be perfect. Therefore, we believe in following the examples set forth by Jesus Christ. 1 John 2:1-6; Matt 5:48; John 3:1-5.





And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Matthew 3:15 KJV

Are sacraments necessary to practice today? It is important today as yesterday to fulfill all righteousness in order to be saved. Matt 3:15.

Baptism: Symbolic of the burial and resurrection of Christ our hope. Christ's work began with his baptism by John. Baptism represents the death and burial of our old life of sin and the rising again of our new life in Jesus. We become new in Christ because we obey him, no longer obeying the lusts of the flesh. How do we obey Christ? We keep his commandments. Matt 3:13-17; Col 2:12-13; Col 3:1-4

Foot washing: Symbolizing the power of humility and how we must humble ourselves to God and our brethren. Foot washing is an example of brotherly love in perfection. John 13:1-15. Our feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel. Ephesians 6:15.

Hand washing: Symbolizing clean hands and a pure heart before God. This was done by the priest before handling holy things. Psalm 24:3-5; Isaiah 52:11; Hebrews 10:22.

Communion: Remembering the body of Christ, and the blood of the New Testament. Eating the bread means we are taking Christ's body in us. His body is his word. By studying his word and making it a part of your life, you are eating his body. The wine is the blood of the New Testament. His blood is eternal life and was shed for the forgiveness of our sins, Matt 26:26-29; 1 Peter 2:2-3; 2Cor 13:14; Proverbs 9:1-5. We also have communion with the full throne of God acknowledging the role of the entire throne in our salvation.

Anointing: This is the sanctification, consecration and dedication unto the Lord. All new members including infants are anointed. All things dedicated specifically for the works of the Lord are anointed as well. Matt 26:7-13; Priest and kings were anointed in the past. Leviticus 8:12; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 16:12-13; 1 Kings 19:15-16. Today we are a royal priesthood and a peculiar people unto the Lord. 1 Peter 2:9; Revelations 5:10.