Baptism is about our identity in Christ.

Baptizo:

The Trinity was present at Jesus’ baptism.

- We hear the Father’s ______________ make an important declaration.
- We see the ______________ of Jesus in identifying himself as the Son of Man.
- We recognize the Holy Spirit appearing as a dove and ______________ on Jesus.

Mark 1:12 (AMP) “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased and delighted!”

John 14:25-26 (AVB) I have told you these things while I am still with you. But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

The wilderness is a place where the Father forcefully leads us when He’s __________ with us.

Wilderness is the Greek word, eremos:

1) solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited
2a3) used of places
   - a desert, wilderness
   - deserted places, lonely regions
   - an uncultivated region fit for pasturage
2b2) used of persons
   - deserted by others
   - deprived of the aid and protection of others, especially of friends, acquaintances, kindred
2b3) bereft (grieved) over something)
   - of a flock deserted by the shepherd
   - of a woman neglected by her husband, from whom the husband withholds himself
In regard to your current trial, copy the definition that you most relate to:

__________________________________________________________________________

Luke 4:1-14a

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (AMPC) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

- LIST ONE: What is our culture’s reaction to someone going through a trial in their life? Typically, what is the perspective of trials in our culture?

- LIST TWO: What is your personal reaction to facing a trial in your life? Typically, what is our natural perspective of trials in our own lives?

- John 14:27 (AVB)
- Romans 8:18
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- James 1:2-4
- 1 Peter 1:6-7
- 1 Peter 2:19-23
- 1 Peter 4:12-13
Our reaction to our trials will become our perspective about our trials and ultimately, that will become our attitude in our trials.

John 16:33

The Kingdom perspective is that trials are a place where...

- He can prove Himself as a loving Father who takes good care of His children.
- We can come to trust the Father’s good intentions and good heart.

Psalm 84:5-7

Blessed: Greek esher, which comes from asher:

Pilgrimage: ____________________________________________

Valley of Baca: ____________________________________________

Further Study:

1. Read Matthew chapters 26-28 and finish the first book of the gospels.

2. Read Bill Johnson’s short article, “Learn to Host the Presence” on the next page. Ask yourself, “In what areas do I need to speak and act with the dove in mind?” In other words, in what areas do I need to talk and behave with a greater and constant awareness of the Presence of the Lord over the presence of yourself and others. Look up “presence” in a thesaurus and list some synonyms for it.
"Learning to Host the Presence" by Bill Johnson

One of the greatest privileges in life is to learn to be a person that God will rest upon. The Holy Spirit already lives in every born again Believer. But He doesn't rest upon all of us. One way I like to say it is, "He is in me for my sake, but He is upon me for yours." When He is upon us, it especially changes others around us. Jesus modeled this lifestyle in the story of His baptism in water.

When Jesus was baptized, He came out of the water, the Heavens opened, the Father spoke, and then the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove and remained. "John testified saying, 'I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of Heaven, and He remained upon Him'" (John 1:32). If, in the natural, I have a dove sitting on my shoulder and I want to go about life without it flying away, how am I going to live? Every step would be with the dove in mind.

As we become faithful in learning how to host the presence of the Lord, it is important to understand that there is a tension between two realities: He has been given to us without measure, yet what we enjoy on a daily basis has been "measured" to us according to our faithfulness. In other words, we have access to the unlimited measure of God's presence, but He doesn't entrust Himself to untrustworthy people. All of the measurements are set up on our end of the equation. He typically entrusts us with the measure of the presence we are willing to jealously guard.

We are to become His resting place; the place from which the exploits of Heaven are accomplished. For when the Lord rests upon a person, there is actually an atmospheric shift that takes place wherever that person goes. How do you think Peter's shadow healed people? Our shadow will always release whatever overshadows us. **When we learn to host the presence of the Lord, we get more breakthroughs by accident than ever used to happen on purpose. That is a possibility for every Believer every day.**

One of the conflicts we face in learning to host the presence is sometimes found in the very lessons we learned from the previous seasons. Believe it or not, those principles sometimes war against the actual presence of the Lord upon us. We are to use principles to plan by, but we must learn to live from the presence. And if there's a conflict between the two, presence always wins out over principle. For example, I may be accustomed to aggressively pursuing the will of God for my life. My key verse might be Matthew 11:12, "and the violent take it by force." Living by principle has me apply what I have learned up to this point; violent faith. But in this story, the presence of God may be leading me to "receive the Kingdom as a child" (Luke 18:17). If you live entirely by principles only, you will make assumptions in certain moments and seasons that are entirely based on Scripture, but they will be in conflict with the Spirit. In this example, both **violent faith and childlike faith are Biblical.** It is the Holy Spirit who knows how we are to respond in each particular season or in a given situation.

We are supposed to be well grounded in what God has said so we can discern what He is saying. It is the presence of God that gives me access to continuous ongoing faith, because faith comes by hearing, not having heard. **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).** Learning to host the presence of God provides the atmosphere of the heart where faith becomes natural and normal. Let's commit ourselves to become the resting place of God.

*Bill Johnson Ministries*
bjm.org and ibethel.org
3. In preparation for next week, read Exodus 34:29-35 in your Bible and 2 Corinthians 3 in the Amplified version below. Meditate and journal on verses 10 and 11 that are in bold type.

2 Corinthians 3 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

Are we starting to commend ourselves again? Or do we not, like some [false teachers], need written credentials or letters of recommendation to you or from you, [do we]? [No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody. You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts with such glory and splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade and pass away, Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God. Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive. Now if the dispensation of death engraved in letters on stone [the ministration of the Law], was inaugurated with such glory and splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade and pass away, Why should not the dispensation of the Spirit [this spiritual ministry whose task it is to cause men to obtain and be governed by the Holy Spirit] be attended with much greater and more splendid glory? For if the service that condemns [the ministration of doom] had glory, how infinitely more abounding in splendor and glory must be the service that makes righteous [the ministry that produces and fosters righteous living and right standing with God]!

10 Indeed, in view of this fact, what once had splendor [the glory of the Law in the face of Moses] has come to have no splendor at all, because of the overwhelming glory that exceeds and excels it [the glory of the Gospel in the face of Jesus Christ]. For if that which was but passing and fading away came with splendor, how much more must that which remains and is permanent abide in glory and splendor!

12 Since we have such [glorious] hope (such joyful and confident expectation), we speak very freely and openly and fearlessly. Nor [do we act] like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze upon the finish of the vanishing [splendor which had been upon it]. In fact, their minds were grown hard and calloused [they had become dull and had lost the power of understanding]; for until this present day, when the Old Testament (the old covenant) is being read, that same veil still lies [on their hearts], not being lifted [to reveal] that in Christ it is made void and done away. Yes, down to this [very] day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies upon their minds and hearts. But whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.