



Grace upon Grace

Dear Friends,

At every baptism, the people have been greeted. The scriptures have been proclaimed. The music has been sung. The sermon has been delivered. Yet the people are still waiting for something else, something beyond being welcomed, beyond hearing, beyond singing, beyond being inspired. They are waiting for baptism. Yes, they are waiting for the baby, young child, older child, youth or adult to be baptized. They know the water will be poured and blessed, candidates will be presented and promises made. The priest will invoke ancient words and pray as the baptismal water is poured and signed with the cross. It is indeed a sacred moment. What we see is neat and impressive and yet what we cannot see is so much more. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan teaches us three things about baptism, three things about the invisible spiritual grace God delivers in moments like these. In our baptism: 1) The Spirit of God comes into us and remains in us. 2) We are declared to be a child of God. 3) We hear that God is well pleased with us. In baptism God sends his Holy Spirit to be in us and with us. It is a sacred and holy fire within that can never be put out. In water and in the anointing oil God's spirit comes. It comes to hold us close, to let us know that we have been touched by the hand of God, who will never let us go. The church longs for children to grow into the fullness of its meaning. The Holy Spirit is the living love of God within us enabling us to move through our journey of faith and life. Let us always seek more of the spirit of God in our lives to know the joy, love and courage Jesus gives for today and for all time.

In the love of our Lord Jesus,

Wayne+