

baptism? Even before looking at the context, the question can be answered. For let it be remembered, that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is infinitely superior to that of water; that as St. Peter states it, the one "saves us," while the other only "puts away the filth of the flesh;" and when an Apostle speaks of a baptism in exalted terms, it can be only baptism of the highest character; that which in a true sense is emphatically baptism, the only true and effective one, since the other is only its shadow, its figure, the preparation for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

But let us look at the context and we shall find this view confirmed. In verses 3, 4, the Apostle urges the Ephesians, "to keep among themselves the Unity of the Spirit." To this end he reminds them, that there is for them but "one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God." Certainly it is not the baptism of water which causes the unity of the redeemed with the spiritual body of Christ. A glance at the Churches and the sects of Christianity shews that it is not. If any doubt on this matter remain, the language of St. Paul should, one would think, promptly remove it. He says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body," 1 Cor. xii. 13. Here it is seen to be the baptism of the Spirit that makes us one body. There is another class of passages where there is mention of baptism made in such a manner as to confound apparently the water and the Spirit, the sign and the thing signified. We group the passages together in order that they may explain each other. "But ye are washed.....in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Cor. vi. 11. "Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and *cleanse* it with the *Washing of Water by the Word*, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish, Eph. v. 25, 26, 27. "God our Saviour has *saved us*, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, by the *Washing of regeneration* and renewing of the Holy Spirit; which He shed on us abundantly," Titus iii. 4, 5, 6.