

Christian Physics

By The Reverend Canon Donald L. Woodrum

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The Bible routinely describes this kind of spiritual experience. An array of angelic helpers is frequently employed as messengers to help humans manage the affairs of life. They employ matter for a time to be visually accessible and vocally articulate.

Jesus gave very specific directions about the use of energy and matter as a dependable communication tool between God and humans. He ordered two liturgies to be performed as reliable means of communication. The church calls them sacraments. When the “outward and physical matter” is managed as Jesus prescribed, the “inward and spiritual energy” is conveyed with certainty. These sacraments are Baptism and the Eucharist.

Baptism installs and ensures that the power sharing system between God and an individual is in place. It guarantees that positive, graceful energy will be delivered upon request. A request is not limited to personal needs but for a delivery of grace for others. Thus, even a baby can be baptized without awareness of that reality being required. Jesus said “suffer the little children” to be brought to him for his saving embrace. This occurs when anyone of any age is baptized with water (the amount does not matter) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism ensures that the “spiritual energy supply system” is installed but does not guarantee its use. Like any plumbing system the water only flows when the faucet is turned on. Certainly, there are many tap-turning disciplines such as prayer and loving behavior. The primary power sharing system Jesus installed is called the Eucharist. The physical act of receiving the bread and wine ensures the delivery of the spiritual fuel/energy.

Jesus used the material elements of the Jewish Seder which are unleavened bread and wine quite precisely. If Jesus wanted grape juice he would have transformed the wine into grape juice with the same ease he turned water into wine as his first miracle. He did not! He explained that the bread and wine would not represent his body and blood but would be his body and blood. By consuming them his physical matter and spiritual energy are certainly conveyed to the recipient. This transforming love is both for the well-being of the recipient and for them to spend in relationships for the well-being of others. This is love in action. The eucharistic deposit of graceful energy is expected to be used up just as physical nourishment is spent and needs to be replaced. God set the “power refueling” day as Sunday by resurrecting Jesus on that day. Every Sunday, time zone by time zone, the planet is covered with love and grace as a new deposit of divine energy is injected into the universal body of Christ for dispersal in the coming week. This is God so loving the world that he gives the presence and power of Jesus to advocate for its wholeness. Christians need to be intentional about embracing and expressing the wonderful, loving energy that they control. Christian physics is not an opinion, but a Jesus empowered love which transforms brokenness into wholeness.

Thankful to Canon Woodrum for sharing his essay with the Newsletter. If anyone would like to contact him to discuss further you can reach him at dleewoondrum@gmail.com ---- Ed.