**Queens Chapel U.M. Church**

**Beltsville, MD**

Rev. Dr. Will Butler, Pastor

**“The Power of Becoming the Church” (Part 3)**

**Acts 2:41 (NLT)**

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to

the church that day—about 3,000 in all.”

1. “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized”
2. Baptism is a Sacrament of the church.
3. Baptism Initiates us into Christ's Holy Church

**1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)**

“Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.”

1. “3,000 in all” were added to the church **(Acts 2:41)**
2. The 3,000 souls who believed were baptized.
3. It was important to keep records of conversions and baptisms.
4. It was the church’s responsibility for stewardship
5. Archologist uncovered numerous **Jewish Mikvahs**
6. Jewish worshippers immerse themselves in water
7. Joining the church was not complete without the act of baptism.

 There are **5 benefits** we experience upon becoming a dedicated member of God’s Church:

1. **I Discover my true identity**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (The Living Bible)**

“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside.

He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!”

1. Many Believers still allow their past to identify their present.
2. The Holy Spirit is working on us from the inside out

**Romans 6:6-7 (NIV)**

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin

7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

* God changed Jacob, *“The Trickster”* into Israel which means *“God Prevails”* **(Genesis 32:22-28)**
* John, *“The Vindictive Jew”* is spiritually transformed into the *“Apostle of Love”* who wrote the Gospel of John (**Luke 9:51-56)**
* Saul, *“The Bloodthirsty Persecutor”* of the church is changed and becomes Paul, a *“Powerful Apostle of Jesus Christ”* who wrote most of the New Testament **(Acts 9:1-22)**
1. We have a new identity, a new attitude and new outlook on life.

**Ephesians 2:19 (The Living Bible)**

 “Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

1. **Your Church Family Becomes Your Support System**
2. There are two major ways we become disciple strong

* When we wash one another’s feet (serve one another)

 **John 13:14-17 (NIV)**

* Love One another—**John 13:34-35 (NIV)**
1. Your church family becomes your support system

**Ephesians 2:21-22 (NIV)**

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

1. A church family encourages and leans on each other for support

 **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)**

1. Paul talks about how a support system within the church should work. **Romans 1:11-12 (NLT)**