

LORD'S DAY 25

65. Q. Since then faith alone makes us share in Christ and all his benefits, where does this faith come from?

A. From the Holy Spirit, who works it in our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and strengthens it by the use of the sacraments.

1. *John 3:5* "Jesus answered, Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit".
2. *1 Corinthians 2:10-14* "10 God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. 14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."
3. *Ephesians 2:8* "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—"
4. *Philippians 1:29* "29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well,"
5. *Romans 10:17* "17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."
6. *1 Peter 1:23-25* "23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you."
7. *Matthew 28:19, 20* "19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
8. *1 Corinthians 10:16* "16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?"

66. Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are holy, visible signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by their use he might the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel. And this is the promise: that God graciously grants us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life because of the one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the cross.

1. *Genesis 17:11* "11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you."
2. *Deuteronomy 30:6* "6 Moreover, the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live."
3. *Romans 4:11* "11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them."
4. *Matthew 26:27-28* "27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the [a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
5. *Acts 2:38* "38 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
6. *Hebrews 10:10* "10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

67. Q. Are both the Word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?

A. Yes, indeed. The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel and assures us by the sacraments that our entire salvation rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.

1. *Romans 6:3* “3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”
2. *1 Corinthians 11:26* “26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
3. *Galatians 3:27* “27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

68. Q. How many sacraments has Christ instituted in the new covenant?

A. Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.

1. *Matthew 28:19, 20* “19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
2. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26* “23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
3. *Holy Baptism*