

**EMPOWERED FOR GOD**



**Waurn Ponds**  
Community Church

# The Christian Initiation

Jesus' example is recorded for us to follow.

Acts 2:38-39 (isv)

*Peter answered them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. For this promise belongs to you and your children, as well as to all those who are far away, whom the Lord our God may call to himself."*

## ....The Christian Initiation

### a) Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit

**Luke 1:35** (gnb)

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you.*

*For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God.*

## ....The Christian Initiation

### b) Jesus was baptised in water

**Matthew 3:13-16a** (gw) *Then Jesus appeared. He came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to stop Him and said, "I need to be baptized by You. Why are you coming to me?" Jesus answered him, "This is the way it has to be now. This is the proper way to do everything that God requires of us." Then John gave in to Him. When Jesus had been baptized, He immediately came up out of the water...*

## ....The Christian Initiation

### c) Jesus was baptised in the Holy Spirit

**Matthew 3:16b-17** (isp) *...suddenly the heavens opened up for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with Him!"*

## Jesus stripped Himself of His divine capability

**Philippians 2:5-8** (gw) *Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although He was in the form of God and equal with God, He did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, He emptied Himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.*

## Jesus stripped Himself of His divine capability

**Hebrews 2:17** (gnb) *This means that He had to become like His people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High Priest in His service to God, so that the people's sins would be forgiven.*

As a result of this, Jesus needed to be empowered to fulfil His mission.

**Isaiah 11:1-2** (niv) *Then a shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from its roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest (settle down and remain) on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.*

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The baptism of the Holy Spirit was so necessary for Jesus to fulfil His mission

**Isaiah 42:1** (gnb) *The LORD says, "Here is My servant, whom I strengthen – the One I have chosen, with whom I am pleased. I have filled Him with My Spirit, and He will bring justice to every nation.*

# The “KENOSIS”

## Meaning

Jesus surrendered all His divine attributes before He came down to earth, and therefore was actually void of them during His earthly life.

## ....The “KENOSIS”

Jesus lived His whole life span only in such strength and ability as his humanity provided. He met life on the same terms that we must meet it.

# The Example of Jesus

As a man, Jesus endured the same temptations we meet, and mastered them with the same weapons that are available to us.

## ....The Example of Jesus

### Hebrews 2:14-18 (msg)

*Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by His death. By embracing death, taking it into Himself, He destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It's obvious, of course, that He didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why He had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when He came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, He would have already experienced it all Himself - all the pain, all the testing--and would be able to help where help was needed.*

## ....The Example of Jesus

The three weapons are: Prayer, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit baptism.

**Luke 3:21-22** (nlt)

*One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with You.*

## ....The Example of Jesus

- ▣ **Luke 4:1** (nlt) *Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness*
- ▣ **Luke 4:4** (nlt) *But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People need more than bread for their life.'*
- ▣ **Luke 4:14** (nlt) *Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Soon He became well known throughout the surrounding country.*

## ....The Example of Jesus

Jesus was dependent upon the baptism of the Spirit to equip Him for the service of God.

**Isaiah 61:1-2** (nlt) *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon Me, because the LORD has appointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to comfort the broken hearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent Me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.*

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# Conclusion

If Jesus is our master, then we should be delighted to follow in his steps. Let us then claim the promise of the Father just as He did and in the power of the Spirit complete all that the Father has given us to do.