

# BAPTISM WITH JESUS

- Picture yourself, with the eyes of your heart, standing in the river with Jesus.
- Imagine what it feels like as you are brought down into the water with Him.
- Now as you ascend again from the water, realize that a miracle has taken place: Jesus is in you, and you are in Him.
- That means the Father's words are for you: "This is my beloved son (or daughter) with whom I am well pleased." How do you feel when the Father speaks those words to you?
- As the Holy Spirit descends upon you, He anoints you with wisdom, knowledge, faith and many gifts, including gifts of healing (1 Cor 12:8-10). He fills your spirit with love, joy, peace, kindness, and the other manifestations of His presence (Gal 5:22-23).
- You are now united with Jesus.
- I encourage you to pause now and allow this experience to become real to you in prayer. Notice that it was during prayer, following his Baptism, that Jesus was able to see heaven open. All of us, since our Baptisms, have a similar kind of access to heaven through prayer. Remember St. Paul's and St. John's experiences of seeing heavenly realities? (See 2 Cor 12:1-5; Rv 1:9-20.) We can do the same.



*Baptism of Christ by Grigory Gaagarin*

*Heavenly Father, please speak to our hearts and allow us to know that, in Jesus, we are your beloved children in whom you delight. Stir into flame the gift of the Holy Spirit that you have placed within each of us, filling us with your love, joy and strength and taking away our fear (1 Tim 1:6-7). We ask this in union with your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.*

*From "Be Healed: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life," by Bob Schuchts.*