

Bible Study: Tues., Jan. 3, 2023

Rites of Passage

I. Introduction:

David Ayollo and the Karamajong

II. Rites of Passage

A. Definition

1. A rite of passage is a ceremony or ritual of the passage which occurs when an individual leaves one group to enter another. It involves a significant change of status in society or cultural structure.
2. A ritual, event, or experience that marks or constitutes a major milestone or significant change in a person's life
3. Anthropologists break down rites of passage into three parts: separation, transformation and integration

B. Confirmation	Getting a Driver's License
First Communion	18th or 21st Birthday
Marriage	A First Sexual Experience

III. So what is there in the spiritual realm that would qualify as a rite of passage?

A. Being Born Again

B. Receiving the Holy Spirit (John G. Lake)

C. Coming into a Revelation of Righteousness & Grace

Here's the truth. In the Kingdom of God, our rite of passage into spiritual maturity happens when we consciously receive God's gift of righteousness. It's not until we receive God's gift of His own flawless righteousness that we can successfully come into all of the powers of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Heb. 10:1-2 (NET) — *For the law possesses a shadow of the good things to come but not the reality itself, and is therefore completely unable, by the same sacrifices offered continually, year after year, to perfect those who come to worship. 2 For otherwise would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers would have been purified once for all and so have no further consciousness of sin?*

Rom. 5:17 — *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!”*

Heb. 5:12-14 — “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

IV. Testimonies

My Own

Florin

“Although we universally fail to see it at the time, His Kingdom becomes our primary plane of existence in this transaction. We become a new species, men and women who like Jesus are balanced between two realms. We walk, on one hand, in the day-to-day familiar of this world. We wake up, guzzle a cup of joe, dress ourselves, go to work, long for vacation, wrestle with finances, and strive in church or quiet moments to see beyond the pale. But on the other hand, we are no longer simply members of the human race. We are suddenly players in another realm entirely. Royal blood runs in our veins, and unimaginable power and authority smolders in our voices and fingertips.

“I love how Paul rebukes the people of Corinth in 1 Cor. 3:3-4. Frustrated and disappointed at the divisions which have been allowed to come between Corinthian believers, Paul writes, “Are you not acting like mere humans? For when one says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not mere human beings?” (1 Cor. 3:3-4 NIV). No. No. We are not “mere human beings.” Everything has changed now. We have taken hold of His gift of righteousness, and, literally, “new things have come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

The Sin Myth, pg. 137

V. The Three Parts of This Rite of Passage

- A. Separation: You are separated from those whose spiritual walk is crippled by sin-consciousness and are confined to spiritual breast-milk.**
- B. Transformation: You graduate into a position of spiritual security and maturity.**
- C. Integration: You are integrated into the midst of those who walk in spiritual maturity, have easy access to the gifts of the Spirit, and can war against the Kingdom of Darkness effectively.**