

Prayer to Holy Spirit

I like ice cream. Anybody else?

Grew up in Minnesota, BR gift certs for Xmas, in the store in Jan.

Delivery systems: Cups, bowls, sundaes, shakes, what is this? (Cone)

We say “ice cream cone” whether it is filled or not. That’s it’s purpose.

Even empty, makes me salivate like Pavlov’s dogs.

My name is Jim Bell, I am clergy, and this talk is Means of Grace

Or, as I subtitle it, “Drooling for Jesus”

Psalm 42

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

Animal drooling

Whoever wrote that was really religious.

Our faith lives go back & forth between intimacy & loneliness.

Means of grace are the ways God established for us to get back in touch.

They are the cones God invented to serve as containers for the
ice cream of God’s presence, power, healing, love, acceptance.

God can pour out presence, etc. at any time, under any circumstance, any way.

God established some ways to do so over & over again. Cool! (MOG)

Anyone thirsting & drooling for Jesus should be thrilled!

The Church has identified some as Sacraments,

Which are the franchise & job description of the Church

Interestingly, in the media age may be the USP of the Church.

Some denominations count 7, some restrict to direct order of Jesus = 2

We’ll cover 2 in greater depth, touch on rest & before general MOG

When you go to church (don’t know what girls do)

Boys like sports & stadiums, **Communion should rattle bleachers.**

Baptism should scare the baby & the grandmother.

Baptism – JBap – I baptize with water, but One comes after me who will baptize w
Holy Spirit.” (Mt. 3, Mk. 1, Lk. 3, Jn. 1)

Jesus Great Commission – Mt. 28 – direct command.

(How can 40% of churches baptize nobody in a year?)

Physically, may be sprinkling, dipping or immersion

May involve infant (innocent) or believer.

Some denomination say it has to be some way to be valid.

Acts 10:44-47

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”

Acts 19:1-7

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Opportunity for questions later. Index cards on table

What grace is given by God in baptism? (May depend on baptizand)

Salvation, assurance, acceptance of family/church, assurance of place

To whom is it given?

Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Passover

Titles: Holy Communion, Mass, Eucharist, Lord’s Supper or Table, Divine Liturgy

Luke 22 record of **Last Supper (2)** & command,

From the beginning of the Church, we understood & carried out command.

Walk to Emmaus, made known in breaking of bread. Open our eyes, Lord.

Pea Break

BREAK

Review – God always good, always with us. Grace knocks before we believe & grace justifies us & relieves our fears.

There are specific ways God has ordained for us to line up @ buffet. MOG

Some of those are assigned to church, &/or direct commands – sacraments

Grace spills over onto witnesses, unsuspecting passersby.

Confirmation – church traditions that baptize babies

Profess faith for selves & cosign covenant.

Ordination – all Christians are called to be faithful

Some are called to represent Jesus Christ in world, right? (trick – ALL)

Priesthood of all believers because God’s grace operates in believers.

Ordination sets some apart for work of Church as Sacraments to MOG

Wedding – sacrament in some traditions

Marriage – Means of Grace throughout Christianity.

From Genesis “not good for the man to be alone” through Proverbs 31

Ecclesiastes’ cord of 3 strands to

1 Corinthians 7:14 - For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.

Personal practices may be MOG, may be commanded

Prayer
Read Bible
Building one another up (fellowship)
Worship
Fasting
Giving (tithes, offerings, alms)
Can take place within Church
Prayer w anointing for healing or commendation to eternity

Confession w healing, forgiveness, reconciliation
Both forgiveness of sins & reconciliation of relationships
are explicit purposes of God in Jesus
Individual followers & church compelled to participate

Role of curiosity & creativity – I wonder what God is up to?
I wonder how this situation could take on essentials of grace.
I wonder what God might do to build on or redeem this?
Moments become holy & everyday events become MOG.
Role of obedience – tender heart for “I miss God”
But evaporates when soul is not tending to MOG.
Helping others, men rush in to fix. How often do we prescribe MOG?

God isn't “more, more, always more”. Rather, save room for dessert.
God leads us in paths of righteousness. Must leave one path to walk another
Faith springs up overnight. Don't know how, but faithful plants pruned.
Need to leave some things behind, have others cut away & die
To allow grace to grow, receive new life

Make our way to chapel to receive Communion, perhaps in new light.
Remember & represent that Christ died so that new life might spring up in us
Foremost means of God's grace and we benefit
Humble yourself, admit your need and begin to drool as we go to the table.