

(1) How would you define “humility”? What are its primary characteristics? How was humility manifested in the life and ministry of John the Baptist? Read John 3:27-30 and talk a bit about the statement: “He must increase, but I must decrease.” How might this commitment be reflected in your own life?

(2) Why do you think Jesus submitted to the baptism of John? If it was not as an expression of repentance for his own sin, what was its purpose? What signal did it send to the people in that day?

(3) Why did John describe Jesus as “the Lamb of God”? What message would this have sent to the people of Israel who had been living under the Mosaic Covenant?

(4) What is baptism in the Holy Spirit? Who baptizes whom in what? What have you believed about Spirit baptism in the past and how have your views changed?

(5) When does Spirit baptism occur: at the moment of conversion for all Christians, or later, subsequent to conversion for only some believers?

(6) Why should this issue of the timing of Spirit baptism not divide Christians as it has in the past? Does the NT support the idea that we can experience multiple life-changing and empowering encounters with the Holy Spirit throughout the course of the Christian life? If so, what biblical texts would you cite to prove this? And what terminology would you employ to explain such events?