

Lord's Day 25

65. Q. Since then faith alone
makes us share in Christ and all his benefits,
where does this faith come from?

A. From the Holy Spirit,
who works it in our hearts
by the preaching of the gospel,
and strengthens it
by the use of the sacraments.

1. Jn 3:5; 1 Cor 2:10-14; Eph 2:8; Phil 1:29.
2. Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 1:23-25.
3. Mt 28:19, 20; 1 Cor 10:16.

66. Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are holy, visible signs and seals.
They were instituted by God
so that by their use
he might the more fully declare and seal to us
the promise of the gospel.
And this is the promise:
that God graciously grants us
forgiveness of sins and everlasting life
because of the one sacrifice of Christ
accomplished on the cross.

1. Gen 17:11; Deut 30:6; Rom 4:11.
2. Mt 26:27, 28; Acts 2:38; Heb 10:10.

67. Q. Are both the Word and the sacraments
then intended to focus our faith
on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross
as the only ground of our salvation?

A. Yes, indeed.
The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel
and assures us by the sacraments
that our entire salvation
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us
on the cross.

1. Rom 6:3; 1 Cor 11:26; Gal 3:27.

68. Q. How many sacraments
has Christ instituted in the new covenant?

A. Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.

1. Mt 28:19, 20; 1 Cor 11:23-26.
1. **Holy Baptism**