

# Water Baptism



We believe in water baptism by immersion.

Jesus only left two ordinances for the church. He first told us to observe The Lord's Supper, commonly known as Communion .

***Corinthians 11:26: For as often a ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.***

The second ordinance is that of water baptism. Water baptism is a sacred right with a specific purpose for the believers .

During the time of Jesus, there were those arrogant religious leaders who refused the counsel of God and would not submit themselves to the baptism of John. Jesus said they were immature and did not understand the Kingdom. He clearly condemns them for their refusal.

***Luke 7:29-35:***

***29 And all the people that heard Him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.***

***30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.***

***31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?***

***32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.***

***33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, he hath a devil.***

***34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!***

***35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.***

Their refusal to obey God severed their relationship with Him and blinded their eyes to the Lordship of Jesus.

The Greek word for baptism is "baptizo" which means to dip or submerge. Sprinkling came into use because some leaders distorted the purpose of water baptism, making it equal to salvation. Thus, every person had to be baptized to be saved. Those on their deathbeds were taken to tubs, and those who could not be moved were subjected to pitchers of water being poured over them. Finally, the practice evolved to sprinkling. We believe in immersion, the same formula our Lord submitted Himself to.

## I. THE COMMAND OF BAPTISM

**Acts 2:38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Water baptism is not optional for the believer. Jesus clearly tells us we are to follow the Lord in obedience of baptism. Those who know Jesus as personal Saviour will want to be obedient to the Word.

A. Jesus tells His disciples to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth and to baptize believers.

B. Jesus says those who repent and follow the Lord in obedience of baptism are saved.

**Mark 16:16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

C. The eunuch understood his need for water baptism, and Philip clearly tells him the one condition under which he qualifies to be baptized. That is, a firm belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Upon his confession of faith, Philip then baptizes the new convert.

**Acts 8:38: And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.**

D. The disciples of Jesus often baptized people who heard and believed in Jesus.

**John 3:22: After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judaea; and there He tarried with them, and baptized.**

**John 4:1-2:**

**<sup>1</sup> When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John**

**<sup>2</sup> (although Jesus Himself baptized not, but His disciples),**

E. Paul said he was not sent to baptize, but to preach the Gospel. However, he did baptize Crispus, Gaius, and the household of Stephanas.

**1 Corinthians 1:13-17:**

**<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?**

**<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;**

**<sup>15</sup> Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.**

**16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.**

**17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect.**

## **II. THE EXAMPLES OF BAPTISM**

The Bible is filled with examples of believers who were baptized in water. These records point to its importance.

**Matthew 13:13-17:**

**13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**

**14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

**15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**

**16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**

**17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.**

A. Our Lord was the best example of our need to be baptized in water. He submitted Himself to the humiliation of this act and thereby testified of His subjection to the Father.

B. The baptism of Jesus was a public one which many people witnessed.

**Luke 3:21-22:**

**21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the Heaven was opened,**

**22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from Heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.**

C. New converts in the early church were baptized in water.

1. Three thousand who accepted Jesus were baptized.

**Acts 2:41: Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**

2. The Christians at Samaria were baptized.

***Acts 8:12: But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the Name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.***

3. Paul was baptized upon his conversion.

***Acts 9:18: And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.***

He later testified of that experience of water baptism before the Hebrew leaders.

***Acts 22:16: And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.***

4. The house of Cornelius was baptized after that dramatic outpouring of God's Spirit upon them.

***Acts 10:48: And he commanded them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.***

5. Lydia was baptized along with her whole household, after their confession of faith.

***Acts 16:15: And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.***

6. The Philippian jailer along with his whole family was baptized after they accepted Jesus.

***Acts 16:33: And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.***

7. Crispus and the Corinthian leaders were baptized in water upon their confession of faith.

***Acts 18:8: And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.***

8. The Ephesian believers, before they even knew about the Holy Ghost had followed the Lord in the obedience of water baptism.

***Acts 19:1-7:***

***<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having-passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain***

*disciples,*

*<sup>2</sup> He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.*

*<sup>4</sup> Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus*

*<sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

*<sup>7</sup> And all the men were about twelve.*

### **III. THE MANNER OF BAPTISM**

Various churches have different methods of water baptism. However, without doubt, the best means is to carefully follow the Biblical pattern and examples.

***Matthew 28:19-20:***

*<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

***Amen.***

A. Jesus was baptized by immersion.

***Matthew 3:16: And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:***

B. There is but one baptism.

***Ephesians 4:5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***

We must be careful to follow the example and commandments of our Lord concerning baptism

C. We are baptized into Jesus in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Peter preached everyone should be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. We must remember his words were intended as a conclusion to his sermon on the Day of Pentecost and were not given as the formula for water baptism. This formula was already set down by Jesus.

## IV. THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

**Romans 6:3-5:**

**<sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?**

**<sup>4</sup> Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

**<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:**

Why do believers submit themselves to the humiliation of water baptism? There are two basic and impartial reasons. These are:

A. It is a sign we have been saved. Peter says it is a figure or symbol of our salvation. However, note he is careful to point out that baptism does not forgive, our sins, **“not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God”**.

**1 Peter 3:21: The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

Only the Blood of Jesus can save us as we confess our sins and ask Him to be our Saviour.

**Romans 10:9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

Baptism then is a testimony of our subjection to and obedience of God.

B. It is also symbolic of our death to the old way of life, our burial and our resurrection to a new life in Jesus. This is emphasized again in another of Paul's letters.

**Colossians 2:12: Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.**

When we go down into the water of baptism, we are identifying ourselves with Jesus in His death, saying we deserve to die because of our sins. We are also saying we are dying to our old way of life. Coming out of the water, we are saying we will walk with Him in newness of life. In baptism we publicly present ourselves to Jesus for Him to live through us and for us to serve Him.

**Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,**

*which is your reasonable service.*

## **V. THE OBEDIENCE OF BAPTISM.**

***Galatians 3:27: For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

Because we have been commanded to be baptized, we must obey. The Holy Spirit is only given to those who obey.

***Acts 5:32: And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him.***

A. We will obey His commandments if we really love Jesus.

***John 14:23: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.***

B. His commandments are easy to obey.

***1 John 5:3: For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.***

C. Our obedience is a testimony to unbelievers.

***1 Peter 2:15: For so is the Will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:***

***Matthew 5:16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.***

D. Obedience is our entrance to Heaven.

***Matthew 7:21: Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in Heaven.***

E. Obedience brings eternal rewards.

***Matthew 6:22: The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.***

F. Jesus is our example in Obedience.

***John 8:29: And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.***

***Philippians 2:8: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.***

G. We must be totally obedient to Christ.

***2 Corinthians 10:5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.***

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