

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM IN WATER

1. THE BLESSINGS OF BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

There are great spiritual benefits to believer's baptism in water. First of all, there is the blessing that comes with obeying the Lord Jesus. Many other spiritual blessings accompany water baptism. The Greek word, "to baptize", means to be dipped in water and to be completely submersed under water. When a new believer is baptized, they are immersed all the way into the water, before they are raised up again. This is done in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is for believers, that is everyone who has repented of their sins and who put their faith in Jesus. That means that a child who has put her faith in Jesus and who is old enough to understand what Jesus wants them to do, can be baptized. This age will differ from child to child, but as soon as the child indicates his readiness, he should be baptized.

1. The Blessing of Obeying Jesus

Jesus himself was baptized in water to 'fulfill all righteousness'.

Mat 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.

Jesus commanded that we be baptized.

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son* and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned. 17 These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Note: Jesus instructs that 'disciples' and 'those who believe' be baptized. This would exclude babies and children who are too young for a personal faith in Jesus.

2. The Blessing of Associating with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus

When we get baptized, we associate with the death of the Lord Jesus as we go under the water, and we associate with His resurrection as we come out of the water.

Romans 6:3 Or don't you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him through baptism to death, that just like Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection;

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Baptism is an outward demonstration of the work that the Holy Spirit is doing on the inside, in our hearts. When you are baptized you lay down your old sinful life, just as Christ died and you come up out of the water, you are raised up into a new life in Him.

3. The Blessing of a Clean Conscience.

Baptism is a washing, sin is washed away and the conscience is washed clean

Acts 22:16 Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

1 Pet 3:21 "and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"

Baptism cleanses you from a guilty conscience and gives you a good conscience towards God.

4. The Blessing of Freedom

Baptism is the cut-off point between your old life and your new life in Christ. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, Pharaoh pursued them to the Red Sea. Only at the Red Sea were they delivered from Pharaoh. Egypt symbolizes a life of slavery to sin and Pharaoh is a type of the devil. The Red Sea parted, and the Israelites walked through to complete freedom from Egypt. Pharaoh and his army were drowned when they tried to follow, and the Israelites were free from Pharaoh for ever! Paul compares our life in Christ to the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt:

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Baptism into Moses = Accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior

(Moses is a type of Jesus as Savior and Deliverer)

Baptism into the cloud = Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Baptism into the Sea = Baptism in Water

5. The Blessing of Spiritual Insight

Those who were baptized understood the words of Jesus and followed him. Water baptism opens up new levels of spiritual insight. You will read the Bible with greater spiritual insight

Luke 7:29 All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John. (NIV)

2. WHEN TO BAPTIZE

As soon as possible! In the Book of Acts, people were very often baptized on the same day they got saved.

1. The Day of Pentecost

Peter preached the Gospel for the first time on the Day of Pentecost to the very people who had crucified Jesus. They were struck in their hearts and said: "What shall we do to be saved?" Peter replied,

Act2 2:37 -38 "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Peter outlines three steps, with water baptism right after repentance:

- Repent
- Be baptized
- And receive the Holy Spirit

3000 people got saved and baptized that same day!

Acts 2:41 *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day*

2. Philip in Samaria

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

3. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:36-38 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

4. Saul is baptized

Saul got saved on the road to Damascus. He is struck with blindness, and did not eat or drink for 3 days. Then the Lord sent Ananias to him, and he got baptized:

Acts 9:17 Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized.

Years later, Paul recounted his testimony to King Agrippa:

Acts 22:9 “Those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they didn’t understand the voice of him who spoke to me. 10 I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ The Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus. There you will be told about all things which are appointed for you to do.’ 11 When I couldn’t see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. 12 One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ In that very hour I looked up at him. 14 He said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. 15 For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

5. Peter and Cornelius

Acts 10:47-48 Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.”

6. Paul and the Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:30-33 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

7. Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:5 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.”

8. Paul in Ephesus

Acts 19:1 ...Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples. 2 He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said to him, “No, we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.”

4 Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. 7 They were about twelve men in all. On hearing this, they were baptized”

These people had been baptized in the tradition of John, but they had not been baptized in the Name of Jesus. When Paul found this lack in their foundation, he baptized them immediately. Today this would apply to people who were

- sprinkled or christened as babies
- people who got baptized as teenagers, just because ‘everyone else was getting baptized’ and there was no real faith or relationship with Jesus
- Also, people who had backslidden significantly (sexual sin, drugs, etc) after they were baptized, need to be baptized again. They took a trip back to Egypt, and need a fresh washing and deliverance

Water baptism and Baptism with the Holy Spirit can happen in any order. The important thing is that the person must be saved first. Since water baptism involve special arrangements, we usually minister the Baptism with the Holy Spirit first. But don’t leave the person without having explained water baptism and making arrangements.

3. WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

Jesus gave all believers authority to baptize in water, just as he gave all believers the authority to heal the sick and preach the gospel.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Paul relied on very new believers to baptize others:

Acts 18:5 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized."

1 Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one should say that I had baptized you into my own name. 16 (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I don’t know whether I baptized any other.) 17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Good News

‘Many Corinthians’ were baptized, but Paul only baptized three household! Obviously, these very new believers baptized many other Corinthians.

All Scripture taken from the New International Version.

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