

Water Baptism

Concept:

One of the last commands that Jesus gave to all of us disciples was that we were to go into all of the world and make disciples of all nations and baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Obviously the Lord thought that water baptism was very important. Contrary to some teaching, water baptism is not necessary for salvation but is done because of salvation. Scripture states, that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we are saved.

Romans 10:9 says *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* This states, that faith in what Jesus has done for us, is the only thing necessary for salvation. Some use Acts 2:38, and tells us we should repent and be baptized and we will receive the forgiveness of sins — meaning we will be saved only after we are baptized. If baptism is necessary for salvation then the thief on the cross did not get to be with Jesus in Paradise nor did John the Baptist, the greatest of the Prophets. Scripture records (John 20:19-23), that the disciples were born again but we never read of them being water baptized. It is recorded that they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit but not that any of them were water baptized. We are not saying that water baptism is not important; we are saying that it is not essential for salvation. Salvation is by grace through faith not grace through water baptism.

We see the disciples using water baptism in obedience to the Lord’s command. In Acts 10:47,48 and in Acts 8:12,13, scripture states, that people believed and were baptized as a public statement of what had taken place in their lives. This tells us that it is important for us to follow the Lord’s command to baptize in water. Acts 10:47,48 needs to be compared to Matthew 28:18,19. One says to baptize in the name of Jesus and the other says to baptize in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Why the difference? The answer: there is no difference. Colossians 2:9, shows us why there is no difference. This verse states that in Jesus the fullness of the Godhead dwells in bodily form. So, when you use the name of Jesus the whole Godhead is used. When baptizing I always baptize in the Name of Jesus in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells in bodily form and in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This way everyone is happy! Baptism is not for legalism but to demonstrate freedom.

Baptism in water is a ritual and represents what has already taken place in our lives. It is not to receive salvation but is done because of salvation. Baptism is a prophetic declaration in the physical and spiritual realm that we are identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are witnessing to the kingdom of darkness that the influence and control of darkness in our lives is over; from now on we are going to be influenced by the Kingdom of Light. No longer will my flesh or evil spirits be the controlling factor in my life. I am a new creation and a member of a new family. The old man stayed under the water and the new man came up. The old man died and the new man was resurrected. The act of Water Baptism allows this picture to be shown but doesn’t give the picture substance; my faith in what Jesus did on the cross and at resurrection allows substance to be put in the picture.

There are eight baptisms listed in scripture. Let's look at all of them and then focus on water baptism.

Definition of the Word Baptism:

Baptisma (Greek): Dip, immerse, the result of the act rather than the act itself. In Christian water baptism, the emphasis is on the baptized person's identification with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection (Revelation 19:13 [Spirit Filled Bible]).

Things to Ponder on Water Baptism (Dake's Bible)

1. All occasions of confession of sin were made before baptism (Luke 3:8-14)
2. Only believers are baptized after repentance (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38)
3. The Greek word "eis" is translated "because 84 times"
4. Only a symbol of death, burial, and resurrection (I Peter 3:21)
5. Not essential for salvation (I Corinthians 1:13-21)
6. Only faith in blood of Christ brings remission of sin (Romans 5:1-11)
7. Christ forgave sins without baptism (Mark 9:1-7)
8. Old Testament saints were not baptized in water

Eight Types of Baptism

Hebrews 6:1-2: Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

1. I Corinthians 10:2
2. Matthew 3:1-10
3. Luke 16:16
4. Matthew 3:13-17
5. Acts 8:12
6. Matthew 3:11-12
7. Mark 10:38-39
8. I Corinthians 12:13

Scripture Application:

1. Colossians 2:12
2. Romans 6:6
3. Galatians 2:20
4. Acts 2:38

5. Acts 2:41
6. Acts 8:12,13
7. Acts 9:18
8. Acts 10:47,48
9. Acts 11:16
10. Acts 16:15
11. Acts 16:33
12. Acts 18:8
13. Acts 22:16
14. Romans 6:3
15. Galatians 3:27
16. Mark 16:16
17. Luke 7:29,30
18. I Peter 3:21
19. Mark 1:4
20. Acts 13:24
21. Acts 19:3,4
22. Ephesians 4:5

Old Testament Type Baptism

1. Exodus 30:18
2. Exodus 40:30
3. II Chronicles 4:6
4. John 3:25
5. Ephesians 5:26

Summary:

Water baptism is an exciting prophetic declaration that we are making to the kingdom of darkness. We are declaring that Satan's power over us is no longer legal because we are coming out of sin and entering into the promise land of righteousness. Our old man and all of it's ways have been crucified on the cross. Our old life with our old father the devil is over because we are a new creation. God is now my Father and His nature is now in me. I am lead of the Spirit and I will no longer fall captive to the deeds of the flesh. My mind is thinking on who I am in Christ and the exciting future I have in Christ. I have made a decision to look at my future and not my past. My hand is put to a new plow and I am not going to look to the right or left. I consider my flesh dead since I have been crucified with Christ by faith. My new life I live by the power of the Holy Spirit. The heavens are open to me so I can see what my destiny in the Lord is, and how to walk that destiny out on a daily basis. Now, I know that the Father loves me and He has put His anointing on me. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Action:

If you have not been water baptized, be water baptized as soon as possible. If you have been, then expect that you will now walk in the power of the new birth. Meditate on Romans 6:6 and confess over yourself that you have come out of bondage and you are now walking in new life.