



Baptism in Jesus name

Great Commission Ministry



WATER BAPTISM

- Water baptism is a test of obedience. It is the circumcision of the heart which takes away our spiritual uncleanness.

KEY VERSE

- *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 (Acts 2:38).*

INTRODUCTION

- In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles there are documented case histories of four individuals and four groups of people being saved eight examples of how salvation was received in the apostolic church.
- These historical examples are as follows:

GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

Jews (chapter two)
Samaritans (chapter eight)
Gentiles (chapter ten)
Ephesians (chapter nineteen)

INDIVIDUALS:

Ethiopian Eunuch (chapter eight)
Saul of Tarsus (chapter nine)
Lydia (chapter sixteen)
Philippian Jailer (chapter sixteen)

INTRODUCTION

- As we study the subject of water baptism is to note that in these eight instances repentance is mentioned two times, faith is mentioned four times, and spirit infilling is mentioned five times.
- Water baptism is mentioned all eight times.
- This fact should convince every honest heart regarding the importance of water baptism in the plan of salvation.
- No one would ever try to argue that **repentance, faith and the Holy Ghost** are not essential elements to salvation.
- However, if these are mentioned only two, four, and five times out of eight, and water baptism is mentioned the entire eight times, how important water baptism must be!

I. ESSENTIALITY OF WATER BAPTISM

A. The Command to be Baptized

On the Day of Pentecost a great crowd was attracted by the phenomenon that took place. When the Apostle Peter preached to the multitude the message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the people were convicted and cried out, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37).

The apostles gave them clear, explicit instructions:

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. (Acts 2:38).

B. Jesus' Teachings on Baptism

In giving the commission to the apostles, Jesus clearly stated that in order to be saved a man would have to believe and be baptized. ***He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16).***

- . There are two essential elements to salvation: faith and water baptism.***

- In the third chapter of John we read that Jesus said that water baptism was essential in order to enter the kingdom of God.
- In the incident recorded here Jesus was dealing with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
- Jesus told Nicodemus that he would have to be born of water and of the Spirit.
- *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5).*

C. Water “An Element of Salvation”

- *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. (John 19:34).*
- *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. (1 John 5:6).*
- Even as Eve was made from a rib taken from the side of Adam next to his heart, so the church is born of blood and water which flowed from the pierced side of Jesus.

- There are three elements in salvation: blood, water, and Spirit.
- These are not in conflict, but rather, they complement one another. In the plan of salvation they are found in Jesus Christ and are made available to the sinner through His name.
- *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood. and these three agree in one. (1 John 5:7, 8)*

II. MANNER OF WATER BAPTISM

A. The Element to be Used

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. (John 3:23).

This Scripture in John's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist baptized where there was much water. There are two truths that we may learn from this:

- 1. Baptism is administered by immersion.*
- 2. The element used in baptism is water.*

B. The Mode of Baptism

- *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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. (Romans 6:3,4)*

- In order to atone for the sins of humanity it was necessary for Christ to suffer death, be buried, and rise again.
- If we are to be saved, we must be “in Christ” (I Corinthians 15:22).
- This means that the penitent sinner must experience death, burial, and resurrection.
- In repentance, he experiences a death to sin and the world. Burial must follow death, for a dead man is never left unburied.
- Water baptism is this burial.
- Even as burial follows death, so does water baptism (immersion in water) follow repentance.

- The Bible makes it very clear that the proper mode of baptism is by one immersion in water. It is foolish to try to argue otherwise. The Greek verb **baptizo** means to “**dip**”, “**plunge**”, “**immerse**”. The word **baptism** properly and literally means “**immersion**”.
- Only by being immersed in water can a person be identified with Christ in burial and be biblically and properly baptized. When Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, they both went down into the water (Acts 8:38).
- Sprinkling or pouring can never have the significance of burial. Only immersion is able to meet the requirement for baptism according to the Bible.

III. FORMULA FOR WATER BAPTISM

A. The Apostles' Baptisms

JERUSALEM

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. (Acts 2:38).

SAMARIA

Only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:16).

DAMASCUS

- *Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)*

CAESAREA

- *And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. (Acts 10:48).*

EPHESUS

- *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:5)*

B. Jesus Is the Name

- *Go Ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19).*
- In giving the Great Commission, Jesus commanded His disciples to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
- It is very important that we understand this command, for it calls for explicit obedience.
- It is not left to our own whim or desire. Let us note that it is possible to repeat these words without obeying them.

- In order to obey we must understand what the name is.
- The terms, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are titles and certainly are not names. What is the name of the Father? What is the name of the Son? What is the name of the Holy Ghost? The answer is the same in each instance.
- There can only be one answer: **JESUS.**
- Obedience to the Great Commission will demand that each one is baptized **in the name of Jesus.**

C. Remission of Sins in the Name

- *Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21).*
- *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47).*

- **Jesus is the saving name of our God.** There is no other name whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Remission of sins is in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:47). How then can any other term, title, or name be used?
- There are many reasons that may be given for water baptism to always be in the name of Jesus. Whatever we do in word or deed we are to do in the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17).
- Water baptism is both word and deed. We may conclude without fear of successful contradiction that a person who has never been baptized in the name of Jesus is not properly baptized.

IV. PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM

A. Water Baptism-Acknowledgement

- Water baptism is the means God has chosen by which we identify with Him.
- it is a test of our obedience. On the basis of the work that God has begun in us in repentance, we present ourselves to the ministry as a candidate for water baptism. When we are immersed in water we take on His name and acknowledge His lordship over our lives.

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

- This is also a public acknowledgement or testimony to the world that we have chosen to be identified with the followers of Christ. It is an outward sign or symbol that demonstrates that God is doing an inward work in our lives.

B. Water Baptism (Burial)

Water baptism is more than just an outward sign of an inward work. If this is all baptism is, then Mark 16:16 would read: .He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized.. This Scripture shows, however, that salvation is a product of water baptism.

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

There is a dynamic spiritual work that takes place during baptism. It is through this ordinance that God gives us power over the sinful human nature.

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:2, 3).

- In water baptism we bury the old nature “our old man”. (Romans 6:6).

Buried with him in baptism. (Colossians 2:12).

C. Water Baptism (Circumcision)

- God wants to perform a spiritual operation on us in water baptism. He wants to cut away the old nature of enmity against Him. This operation-circumcision of the heart-is really the purpose of the ordinance of baptism.
- *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ. 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. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. (Colossians 2:11-13).*

- The “old man” is to be cut away and left buried in the waters of baptism. This is what makes the forgiving of our trespasses (Colossians 2:13) or the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) possible. A most interesting point concerning circumcision is found in the account of the circumcision of the Christ Child.
- *And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS. (Luke 2:21).*

- The Christ Child was not named until He was eight days old. In the stable He was not baby Jesus.. He was just a babe, period. He received His name at the time of His circumcision according to Jewish custom.
- So we also do not receive our spiritual name, the name of the heavenly family (Ephesians 3:15), the beautiful name of JESUS, until we are baptized in water in that name, for this is our spiritual circumcision.