

Water Baptism Part 1

“13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 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: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:13-17 KJV)

The above passage describes Jesus’ baptism before He started His earthly ministry. He has shown us His very first example in:

1. Obedience to God: Water baptism is immersion in water. It is ordained from God for everyone; having no physical effect but depicting spiritual value. It reflects human understanding of the words - obedience to God. Obeying God without question or doubt describes our trust and full confidence in Him. It is an act of obedience to God and it is a righteous thing to do. Jesus was obedient to God the Father, and when He sent His apostles to preach the gospel He instructed them with the following: *“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16 KJV)* Notice here that Jesus mentioned that whoever believes and is baptized he got saved. If you believe but you refuse to get baptized you are unsaved.

2. Submission to God: Obedience describes the attitude of submission. But human pride opposes that act of obedience and submission to God. **You cannot reach God with a haughty spirit. It has to be broken. Taking water baptism is an act of submission to God.** Jesus, when He requested John to baptize him, He submitted himself to God and obeyed to be baptized by man. Baptism was used by the Jews for the Gentiles, the Non-Jews, who wanted to join the Jewish faith. John began a new use of baptism when he baptized Jews who had repented and been forgiven. *“2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;” (Luke 3:2-3 KJV)*

3. Humility: Jesus is the Son of God and He is God, but He put aside his Godly nature. He showed us the best example of humility. As a man although having no sin, Jesus was baptized by John who was baptizing the people in water for repentance. Jesus is whom John referred to when he said, *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” (Matthew 3:11 KJV)* John was surprised when Jesus came to him to be baptized. Because John knew that Jesus had no sin. Jesus answered, *“15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.” (Matthew 3:15 KJV)* Jesus was baptized in obedience to God the Father and as an example for us. **He commanded that all believers be baptized in the Great Commission:** *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing*

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 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.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

4. Decision-making: Jesus lived as human for 30 years and before He started His ministry He willingly underwent water baptism. This act represents the point or the mark between His life as a mere man and His ministry as the Son of God; to follow and to do the will of God the Father. **Water baptism is a personal decision to choose after firmly understanding its spiritual implications because it represents a covenant between a believer and God.** Jesus decided by Himself to take water baptism. The person who believes in Jesus and decides to leave behind his old life - the life of sin, and ready to turn to follow God and to serve God, therefore will decide to obey the ordinance of water baptism. Obviously, water baptism is a personal own-decision to make and is not applied to little children or to anyone who does not understand its significance.

5. Proclaiming the will of God: Water baptism is not only a simple act or just an occasion to celebrate. **It is the doer’s declaration about his spiritual being not only to God but even to the people around him.** Baptism is an outward expression of an inward condition. The physical action is picture of what happens in the spiritual. **Water baptism declares the inward condition of the person who has repented from sin and has accepted the saving power of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. He proclaims that he is forgiven and cleansed, and God has made him alive with Christ.** While John was preaching and baptizing, Jesus also took water baptism publicly. Baptism says that a person has repented of his or her sins. In *Acts 2:37, 38* When Apostle Peter preached about Jesus, told the people on the day of Pentecost that they needed to repent and be baptized every one of them in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. *“37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:37-38, 41 KJV)* **Baptism symbolizes that a person has been forgiven and cleansed of his or her sins. It is a confession of our desire to be clean from sin of every kind.** *Acts 22:16* says to wash away your sins, *“16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

6. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit: After the water baptism of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon Him as a dove and a voice from Heaven said: *“17 This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17 KJV)* **God is very much pleased whenever His children obey Him.** In the day of Pentecost when the people heard the message about Jesus Christ, they asked the apostles what they needed to do. And Peter replied, *“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. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.” (Acts 2:38-39 KJV)* Here Peter promised the Holy Spirit to those who will be water baptized. **The gift of the Holy Spirit enables you to serve God with the gifts of the Spirit.**

What is Christians baptism? Baptism means to dip, immerse, or submerge. In scripture it means to put into or under the water, so to entirely immerse or submerge. When the Ethiopian saw water, he asked to be baptized *“36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”* (Acts 8:36 KJV) Philip was the one who was preaching to him the gospel of Jesus and he answered him, *“37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* (Acts 8:37 KJV) Then the eunuch complied, *“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.”* (Acts 8:38 KJV) Then in the following verse Acts 8:39 we can read, *“39 And when they were come up out of the water,”* that means during baptism the eunuch was immersed under the surface of the water. Our Lord Jesus when got baptized according to *Matthew 3:16*, we can read the following *“16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.”* That it means during His baptism Jesus was under the surface of the water. **Therefore it is not acceptable that baptism will be done by sprinkling of water or by taking shower because the whole body needs to be immersed under the surface of the water.**

Romans 6:3-5 tells us the following about baptism, *“3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”* (*Romans 6:3-5 KJV*) Here according to this Scripture those who are undergoing baptism are considered as dead to their old life. **Therefore the meaning of baptism is to bury the old life, and immersion in water symbolizes the burial of a dead person body. Therefore in doing baptism, only the immersion method is the acceptable and the Scriptural procedure. Those who are baptized by sprinkling need to be baptized again properly by immersion under the surface of the water.**

Water Baptism should be done in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as Jesus commanded us, *“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 KJV*)

What does water baptism means?

1. Water Baptism is to bury the old life: *Romans 6:3-5* tells us that in baptism we are burying our old life. **Therefore it is the responsibility of those who desire and willing to be baptize to put to death whatever belongs to their sinful nature.** *“5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”* (*Colossians 3:5-10 KJV*) **Immersion under the water during baptism is to bury a person who is aware and willing to put to death his old life. In this way the person is united with Jesus in His death on the cross, and as Jesus**

resurrected from the dead, the baptized person is united with Jesus' resurrection as he rise up from the water after water baptism to live his new life for Christ. *Colossians 2:12-13* tells us the following: *“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. 13 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 2:12-13 KJV*) **Therefore in baptism the old life the life of sin has been dealt with and buried with Jesus.**

2. Baptism says that a person has repented of his or her sins: In Acts 2:38 Peter told the Jews on the day of Pentecost that they needed to *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”* Baptism is an outward expression of an inward condition. The physical action is picture of what happens in the spiritual.

3. Baptism symbolizes that a person has been forgiven and cleansed of his or her sins: Baptism is a confession of our desire to be clean from sin of every kind. *Acts 22:16* says, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*

4. It is an act of obedience: *Matthew 28:19*, *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* tells us that baptism is necessary for those who want to be disciples. In *Acts 9:6* the Lord told Saul that he will be told to what he needed to do, *“Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”* After he could see again, he was baptized, *“18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”* (*Acts 9:18 KJV*)

5. We are baptized into Jesus character: **We are not baptized into a church or group of people. The important thing is that we are baptized into Christ.** *Galatians 3:27* says, *“27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”* So baptism is to take the character and the attitude of Christ, *“12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”* (*Colossians 3:12-13 KJV*) Baptism is to dedicate our lives to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and allow him to work on us to reproduce in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit that makes our attitude and characters similar to Christ, for we are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, *“19 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 KJV*)

What are the qualifications of water baptism?

1. It is necessary to have heard the Word, believed it and accepted the message: *Acts 2:41* says that those who accepted the message were baptized. *“41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”* (*Acts 2:41 KJV*)

2. Conviction. Acts 2:37 says, “37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37 KJV) **People should get baptized willingly after they are convinced.**

3. Repentance: Without repentance water baptism will not bring salvation in their lives. Those who got baptized without repentance they need to re baptized again after their repentance. Peter clearly stated in his message to the crowd in the day of Pentecost that they need to repent first then after that to get baptized, “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.” (Acts 2:38 KJV)

4. Faith: Mark 16:16 says, “16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16 KJV)

5. Obedience: Not only for water baptism but for all the commands of God. God’s will was for Jesus to be baptized and us also.

My dear and beloved: Come now to the Lord in repentance and use this opportunity that God had spoken to give your life to Him, and be willing to leave your old life of sin, and burying it as you are willing to get water baptized, immersed under the water, to unite with Christ in His death, to rise from the water to live a new life for Christ, a life of holiness unto God and willing to serve Him and do His will and His plan for you.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me about the meaning of water baptism. Lord thank you for all your blessings to me and thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Come now to God and repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your disobedience, pride, your unbelief, and doing your own will and plan. Repent of your idol worship and your old religion and tradition. Repent of your non willingness to bury your old life through water baptism. Repent of all the works of the flesh. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and to suffer for Christ. Lord I repent forgive me the following sins

Lord I surrender my life to you and I commit myself to live doing your will and willing to bury my old life of sin through water baptism and to raise from the water to live my new life for Christ and to serve God and His purpose. Lord uphold me with your grace, protect me and continue to provide for me to continue to serve you.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you and those who are willing to be water baptized. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you and make their lives good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and share our life testimonies and your Word with others so they will know you and follow you. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you. Lord help us to plant new congregations and new Bible studies for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the people who need your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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