

Water & Spirit Baptism

I. Water Baptism: definition and purpose

Definition

Our English word baptism is a transliteration from the greek word 'baptizo', which means to dip or immerse. Therefore, to be baptized one must be completely immersed in water.

Mark 1:9,10 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

Acts 8:38,39 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. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Purpose

A. Remission of sins

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*
- 3. Colossians 2:11-13 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: 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;*

B. Identification with Jesus Christ

- 1. Romans 6:3-5 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*

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be also {in the likeness} of {his} resurrection:

2. Galatians 3:27 *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
3. Colossians 2:11-13 *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: 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;*

C. Spiritual circumcision

1. Genesis 17:10 *This {is} my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised...14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*
2. Colossians 2:11-12 *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: 12 Buried with him in baptism...*

II. The Commandment to Baptize & Its Fulfillment by the Apostles

A. The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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.

verses 16, 17 Some of the eleven still doubted Jesus despite seeing Him after the resurrection.

verse 18 This was aimed directly at the doubters. Jesus makes one of the most powerful statements about Himself that He could make by stating His absolute preeminence and Lordship over all creation.

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verse 19 He tells them to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the (singular) name representing the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

verse 20 In other words, "Teach them all I have taught you." Therefore, whatever Jesus meant in verse 19, the eleven were to teach it to all nations. Their actions when obeying this command clarify what Jesus meant.

John 17:18,20 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world...20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

We can trust the teaching of the apostles because it was the Lord's plan that we believe on Him through their word and example. They no doubt understood how Jesus wanted them to baptize. Did they fulfill their commission? Of course! Let's see how.

B. In Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost

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.

C. In Samaria

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

D. In Caesarea

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord [which is Jesus]...

E. In Ephesus

Acts 19:5 When they heard {this}, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

F. On the road near Damascus

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away

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thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord [again, Jesus].

- G. Also note Romans 6:3-5, 1 Corinthians 1:13, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:11-13 & 1 Peter 3:21. What other subject do these scriptures mentioning water baptism have in common? Jesus!!

III. Other Thoughts on Water Baptism

- A. Based on what the apostles actually did, the Lord meant for them to baptize using the name Jesus, which represents all of the fullness of God (Colossians 2:9), not for them to repeat his words. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles and are not the singular name that Jesus wanted used in baptism.
- B. Sign (or say) 'your name' or your name.
- C. Historians admit the early church originally baptized using Jesus' name. The practice of repeating the words Father, Son, and Holy Ghost was developed later.
- D. Rebaptism

Using Jesus' name in baptism was important enough that disciples of John the Baptist were baptized a second time by the apostle Paul in Ephesus.

Acts 19:1-5 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, 2 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. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 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. 5 When they heard {this}, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

IV. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

- A. Prophesied of:

By Joel

Joel 2:28,29 And it shall come to pass afterward, {that} I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

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By John the Baptist

Matthew 3:11 *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:*

By Jesus

John 7:37-39 *In the last day, that great {day} of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet {given}; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

B. Necessary for salvation

John 3:3-5 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 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.*

Romans 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

1 Corinthians 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether {we be} Jews or Gentiles, whether {we be} bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

V. Examples of the Holy Ghost Baptism

- A. The Day of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-41. This was the birthday of the church and set the New Testament pattern.

Acts 2:1-4,14-18 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all {ye} that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:*

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15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is {but} the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Verse 16, *But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;*

What is "this?"

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The infilling of the Spirit is something bystanders can see and hear.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 10:45,46 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter...

What is "that?"

It is what was spoken of by Joel, the outpouring of the Spirit which is available to everyone.

This is that!! As Peter explained it, what the onlookers saw and heard (the speaking in tongues and drunken behavior) was fulfilling Joel's prophecy of the Spirit being poured out upon all flesh.

The Promise

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4,5 And, being assembled together with {them}, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, {saith he}, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

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Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:39 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.

The Promise is the baptism of the Spirit. Peter tells his audience the Promise is what they saw and heard (verse 33), and is also for them (verse 39). Would those who were pricked in their heart (verse 37) and gladly received his word (verse 41) be satisfied with experiencing anything less than what they had observed (verse 33)? No!

Last Comment

Acts 2:12,13 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Whatever the believers' countenance and coordination were after receiving the Spirit, they were not dignified. They obviously displayed some sort of disorientation.

B. Phillip in Samaria: Acts 8:5-25

Acts 8:14-19 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they {their} hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

1. Miracles happened, the Samaritans had great joy, they believed and were baptized, but none had received the Holy Ghost. This shows the Holy Ghost is not necessarily given instantly at conversion or baptism.
2. Everyone knew when the Holy Ghost was given (verse 17). How did they know exactly when, unless there was an expected outward sign that was manifested?

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3. Whatever the outward sign was, it amazed Simon more than the healings and miracles. He actually offered Peter and John money for the power of giving people the Holy Ghost (verse 18). He did not offer money to do the miracles. Observing the Samaritans receiving the Holy Ghost must have been quite different from anything Simon had ever seen before.
4. The most important point to understand about this account: How did everyone know that none of the Samaritans had received the Holy Ghost if the experience could happen silently or without a singular definitive sign? If the Spirit baptism could ever happen without an outward sign, how could all have been certain that not a single Samaritan had been already filled? (*For as yet he [the Spirit] was fallen upon none of them*)

C. Peter at Cornelius' household in Caesarea: Acts 10:34-48. Review Acts 10:1-33

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

1. Peter and the brethren knew when Cornelius and his family received the Spirit, *For they heard them speak with tongues...*
2. This is the first instance of uncircumcised Gentiles being discipled, and God gave them the Holy Ghost first to embolden Peter to baptize them. This also gave Peter an excuse for just being there when he was later cross examined (Acts 11:1-4,12-18).

D. Paul at Ephesus: Acts 19:1-7.

Acts 19:1,2,6,7 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, 2 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....6 And when Paul had laid {his} hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.

This is more proof that the Holy Ghost is not necessarily given at the time of conversion and that speaking in tongues evidences the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

- E. There are no instances where new converts received the Holy Ghost without speaking in tongues.