

is
Baptism
necessary
for
Salvation?



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INTRODUCTION

The Word of God has a lot to say about the topic of baptism. There are six different baptisms mentioned in the New Testament.

First is the baptism of the children of Israel into Moses (1 Cor. 10:1-2; Ex. 14:19ff), which describes how they were surrounded by a wall of water on each side and a cloud. When they came out on the other side of the Red Sea, they were saved from the Egyptians, and they began a new life with Moses as their mediator.

Second is John's baptism, which came from God (Mt. 21:25). Accepting his baptism justified God (Lk. 7:29), but refusing it was to reject the will of God (Lk. 7:30). John's baptism was an immersion in water (Jn. 3:23; Mk. 1:5, 9-10), and He was preparing the way for the Lord. John's baptism had a specific purpose and prerequisites. First, people had to believe in the Messiah that would come after him (Acts 19:4). Second, they had to confess their sins (Mt. 3:6; Mk. 1:5). Third, it was a baptism of repentance (Acts 13:24; 19:4). Fourth, it was a baptism for the forgiveness of sin (Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3). John's baptism was also carried out by Jesus' disciples (Jn. 3:22, 26; 4:1-2). However, the authority for his baptism ended when The Great Commission was commanded (Mt. 28:18-19; Acts 19:4-5).

Third is the baptism of suffering (Mt. 20:22-23; Mk. 10:38-39), which refers to the overwhelming suffering that Jesus experienced as He was scourged (Mt. 27:26) and crucified (Mt. 27:35). In other words, He was immersed in pain.

Fourth is the baptism of fire (Mt. 3:11; Lk. 3:16). Some think the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire are the same thing, but they are not. John was talking to sincere and insincere people. When he said Jesus would baptize them with fire, he was talking about the eternal punishment that all the wicked will be immersed in. This is the reason John said: “His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire” (Mt. 3:12). Those who claim the apostles were baptized with fire on the day of Pentecost have misunderstood Acts 2:4 because it describes divided tongues that looked like fire and sat upon each apostle. So, this does not describe being baptized by fire at all.

Fifth is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which was spoken of by John the Baptist (Mt. 3:11; Lk. 3:16). As we examine more Scriptures, we will discover that Holy Spirit baptism was a promise to the apostles, and Jesus would administer it (Lk. 24:49; Jn. 16:5-15; Acts 1:8). Jesus clarified that John’s teaching about the baptism of the Holy Spirit applied to the apostles when He said to His apostles: “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:5). This promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4, which proved that Jesus was sitting at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33). The only other recorded instance of Holy Spirit baptism happened at Cornelius’s household (Acts 11:15). Since Jesus was the only one who could administer this baptism, which was a promise and not a command, it cannot be the baptism that Jesus commanded in The Great Commission.

Sixth is the baptism of The Great Commission (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16), which is administered by humans. Paul said there was one baptism when he wrote to the Ephesians (Eph. 4:5). That one baptism is the baptism of The Great Commission. It was taught at the birth of the church as being for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38). It is an immersion in water (Acts 8:38; 10:47), and it saves a person (1 Pet. 3:21). Before a person is baptized, he must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 3:16), repent (Lk. 13:3), and confess Jesus as Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). Even though this baptism is administered by others, what takes place at a person's baptism is a work of God (Col. 2:12). When a person is baptized, he is buried with Jesus, united with Him, raised alive with Him, and his sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus (Rom. 6:1-11; Col. 2:12-13; Acts 12:38; 22:16; Rev. 1:5). At the point of baptism, we are added to the church by God (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).

Six different baptisms are mentioned in the New Testament, but our main focus will be the baptism of The Great Commission because it is the one that saves. Many in the religious world teach that baptism is not necessary for salvation. Instead, they would say that baptism is something a person does after he is saved. This book will challenge that view and prove that baptism is necessary for salvation.

While this book will focus on baptism, please understand that baptism is not more important than faith, repentance, or confessing Jesus as Lord, but it is equally important. All these things work together to bring about salvation, and one will not work without the other.

To get the most out of this book, one needs to open his Bible and read all the Scripture references in context. I do not want anyone to take me at my word just because I have written a book. Instead, my desire is that everyone will be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so (Acts 17:11). It would also help if everyone will study this

topic with an open mind and be willing to change if their view is wrong.

Baptism is a serious topic that deserves your attention. If baptism is the point at which a person is saved and you were taught that a person is baptized after they are saved, then you were never baptized for the remission of sin, which means you are lost. I believe this is the greatest trick the devil has pulled off because a person can live like a Christian and act like a Christian but still belong to the devil because he has never had his sins removed in the watery grave of baptism (Mt. 7:21ff). Since baptism makes the difference between being saved and being lost, everyone should read and study this topic closely.

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:3-5

1

Nicodemus was curious about Jesus because He had performed many signs (Jn. 3:2). So, he came to Jesus at night to find out more about Him. Notice what Jesus told Him in the following verses:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (Jn. 3:3-5).

Jesus' answer confused Nicodemus because all he could think about was the physical. He knew that he belonged to the physical kingdom of Israel because all Jews were considered to be part of God's chosen nation. Now Jesus is telling him that a person must be born again or he cannot enter the kingdom of God or even see it.

In verse 4, Nicodemus is trying to make sense of Jesus' statement from a physical point of view, which is the reason he asked: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he

Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation?

Even though baptism is one of the fundamental building blocks of Christianity, many are confused about it. Is it necessary, or is it just an outward sign for an inward change? This book will answer this question and many more as it deals with all the major arguments and misunderstandings that people have about baptism.

Is baptism essential to salvation? The Bible is very clear with an answer to that question and Collins has researched it well. This book should be especially useful in personal evangelism. I am also finding it helpful in my pulpit preaching as well as material being presented in the television program, *In Search Of The Lord's Way*. I am sure God can use it to lead the lost to salvation.

☞ Mack Lyon

Those who love the Word will gain much from reading this book. You have entered more specifics than any other writer that I have read from.

☞ Jo Daniel

This book is an excellent resource guide on the subject of baptism. The author's impeccable logic, scriptural insight, and persuasive writing style are sure to reach lost souls with the truth about baptism. With such mass confusion over the subject of baptism, this book is sure to point the reader toward God's original design for baptism.

☞ Ben Bailey

About the Author

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