

FOUNDATIONS #6

The Doctrine of Baptisms

REVIEW

The construction of the Christian life begins with the right foundation!
Christ is the Cornerstone.
Then there are 6 foundational doctrines listed in Hebrews 6.

There is a divine order in the 1st 3:

First: Repentance from dead works

Two: Faith toward God

Three: The Doctrine of Baptisms

Our foundation begins with repentance of sins and faith toward God.
Then we move on to the 3rd foundational doctrine, “baptisms”, plural, which plainly indicates that the complete doctrine of the Christian faith includes more than one type of baptism.

“The plural form of the term baptism plainly indicates that the complete doctrine of the Christian faith includes more than one type of baptism.”

Derek Prince

The 1st form of baptism mentioned in the New Testament is the baptism of repentance, preached and practiced by John the Baptist, is not Christian baptism.

Also, Jesus briefly mentions a “baptism of sufferings”, describing what He would endure in His atoning work on the Cross; but this is not one of the baptisms we will consider.

The foundational doctrine of baptisms refers to the 2 baptisms God has prescribed for all who believe in Christ....

I. There Are Two Distinct Baptisms for Christians: Baptism in Water and Baptism in the Holy Spirit

A. Types and Shadows

1. These 2 baptisms are foreshadowed in the Old Testament in Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The Apostle Paul is comparing Israel's salvation with Christian redemption:

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 NIV

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

2. Paul is teaching that what Israel experienced in the *natural*, the Church would experience in the *spiritual* realm:

- Israel was delivered from Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb; we are delivered from the kingdom of darkness by the blood of the Lamb of God, the blood of Jesus
- Israel was baptized unto Moses "in the cloud" and "in the sea" (referring to how the "cloud" passed through the congregation and how Israel passed through the (Red) "sea"; in the same way we are baptized into Christ in water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

3. The point is that Israel after Israel had been delivered out of Egypt by the blood of the lamb, *they experienced 2 baptisms "unto Moses"; in the "cloud" and in the sea"*. And Paul is teaching that what they experienced in their natural journey we are to experience 2 baptisms in our spiritual journey: salvation by the blood of the Lamb, baptism in water and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

4. These 2 distinct baptisms are foundational for Christians: in water and in the Holy Spirit.

B. The Two Christian Baptisms

1. We must be careful not to confuse Christian baptism with the ministry of John the Baptist; John baptized in water for the repentance of sins. But the baptism of John is not Christian baptism, as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19

Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. The primary difference between Christian baptism and John's baptism is that Christian baptism is to be carried out in the full name and authority of the Triune God-the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

a. John's baptism was for sinners unto repentance; it was to prepare the way to receive the coming of the Lord.

b. But Christian baptism is for those who have repented and believed in Jesus unto salvation.

c. Christian baptism is a full identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

3. This is clarified in a passage from Acts 19, which explains the relationship between John's baptism of repentance and Christian baptism in water and in the Holy Spirit:

Acts 19:1-6 NASB

And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, 2 and he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

a. These were "disciples" who "believed"; Jesus; they had repented of their sins and had saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; but they had only experienced "John's baptism".

b. But Paul explains how John's baptism was not Christian baptism: so "when they heard", they were:

- Baptized in water "in the name of the Lord Jesus"
- And baptized in the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them
- The result: "they began speaking in tongues and prophesying"

c. This is the foundation of the Christian life: believe in Jesus, be baptized in water, and be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

4. This was the pattern established after the resurrection on the Day of Pentecost where 3,000 souls responded to Peter's invitation to believe:

Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

a. Peter gave 3 commands which correspond to the first 3 foundational doctrines of Hebrews 6:

- Repent (which would here include having faith in God)
- Be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus
- AND you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

5. It is evident here that to "receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" does not refer to being born again because it is promised *after* one is born again and been baptized in water!

6. This is consistent with the experience of the Apostles when Jesus appeared to them *after the resurrection*:

John 20:21-22

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

a. Surely this means that these men were saved! They had believed and had "received" the Holy Spirit.

b. So if that was all there was, why would Jesus say this to them in Acts 1?

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. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is *come upon* you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

c. And it happened!

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

7. It is very clear that this baptism in the Holy Spirit is distinct from the experience of salvation! Look at this account from...

Acts 8:14-17

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

a. Peter and John heard that these had “received the Word of God”, and been “baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”. In other words, these people were saved.

b. But they went down to pray for them “that they might receive the Holy Ghost”. Why? Because “as yet He was fallen upon none of them”, even though they had been baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus!

c. They had not received the 2nd baptism! So it says...

d. “THEN” they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

8. Compare this account with much of the current Christian culture; if a leader knows someone has been saved and baptized in the name of Jesus, there is no “next step”. There is no ministry of a “2nd baptism”. There is no v.17...

Then they began laying hands on them and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:17 NASB

9. How many churches have no v.17 ministry for God's people? Where if you're saved and baptized in water, that's it! That's how it was in our first Church experience.

II. Personal Testimony: Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

A. Repentance and Faith

1. I was radically saved in 1971 but it was many years before I was able to connect my experience with the foundational doctrines of Hebrews 6.

2. In other words, I didn't read the foundations and do them; I did them by responding to the sovereign grace of God.

- I truly repented from dead works
- I truly had faith toward God

3. And without anyone teaching me, I immediately knew we had to get ourselves connected to a good local church; the first Sunday morning there, we went responded to the invitation; we were baptized in the evening service.

4. I underwent a radical change in my life; I was different and I lived, thought, and acted differently.

5. But the thing I remember the most about that first year or two was the incredible hunger I had for MORE. Salvation was great. Church was great. The Bible was great. But I KNEW there was more; which made me drive my Pastor crazy with questions, mostly about what I was reading in the Book of Acts about the power in the early church and the references to miracles and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

6. He patiently explained how the things I was asking about had all passed away; that when the New Testament scriptures had been written and the canon completed, there was no need for these things. He also assure me that I received the Holy Spirit when I was saved and that there was no "2nd experience" needed. His explanations would satisfy me...temporarily.

7. But 2 things kept me pressing forward; first there was that deep “knowing” within myself that there was more; and secondly there was the plain record of scripture. Eventually, we went “outside the camp” for answers and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit about a year after we were saved.

8. This was an experience that changed everything; it was all so much deeper. We were kicked out of that first church; but it was really a blessing because we had found fellowship with other hungry people and began to see the things we had only read about before. One other thing was that my understanding of the Word of God increased dramatically.

9. We did see some pretty crazy things for sure; but we could never go back! And it’s been that way ever since. So what about you?

III. Conclusion

A. **How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

1. First, you must be absolutely sure that it is God’s will to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

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. 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.

a. No one doubts God wants us to “Repent” and to “be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ; so why should we doubt that God wants us to “receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”?

b. Peter is quoting from the Old Testament prophet 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:
And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.**

2. Second, you must earnestly *desire* the baptism in the Holy Spirit!

a. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is designed for the desperate!

Isaiah 44:3

For I will pour water upon him who is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit upon your descendants; and My blessing on your offspring.

b. Jesus said in the Beatitudes; “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

3. Third: There must be earnest prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and faith that the Father will give nothing but what He promised.

Luke 11:9-13 NKJV

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

a. The Greek verbs for ask, seek, and knock are in the continuous present tense: ask, and keep on asking; seek, and keep on seeking; knock and keep on knocking.

John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

“We shall in the next place consider what kind of asking, in order to the obtaining of this great blessing, is here required by our Savior, when He says, "God will give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." It must have these three qualifications:

- 1. It must be hearty and sincere, in opposition to formal and hypocritical asking.**
- 2. It must be earnest and fervent, and importunate, in opposition to cold, and faint, and careless asking.**
- 3. It must be in faith, and a confident assurance that God will hear us, in opposition to doubting and distrust.**

b. This violent kind of praying must be accompanied by faith that we can trust the Father to give us the Holy Spirit and nothing but the Spirit! All fear must be cast out! Over the years, many have been afraid to open themselves up to the Holy Spirit for fear that they might receive another spirit or wonder if they speak in tongues if it's really of God or not. But this is impossible! Look again...

Luke 11:11-13

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

c. Even an earthly father would not give his son a serpent if he asked for a fish; or a scorpion if he asked for an egg; even an earthly father only gives good gifts to his children, so "how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

Charles Spurgeon

"It appears plainly enough from the text that this Holy Spirit is to be given in answer to prayer. He will give you the real Spirit: no enthusiasm that might mislead you, no fanaticism that might injure you, no self-conceit that might become like a deadly scorpion to you, but His own gentle, truthful, infallible, Holy Spirit He will give to them that ask Him."

4. Don't get tangled up on tongues! The Baptism of the Holy Spirit enables us to pray and to worship God in a different language than what we have learned.

a. In my experience in helping people receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, this has been the biggest blockage; confusion about it means to speak in tongues. Look carefully at this verse:

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (KJV)

b. There are 2 things here: Who did the speaking? Who gave the utterance? When I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I do the speaking; the Holy Spirit gives the language! The Holy Spirit does not speak! I do! He gives me the language. The New Living Translations says:

Acts 2:4 NLT

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

c. Again, “everyone”...”began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability”. What ability? To speak? NO! They could already speak! The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in other languages!

d. The NIV and NET translations confirm this:

Acts 2:4 (NIV/NET)

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (NIV/NET)

e. The biggest blockage is getting people who are being filled with the Holy Spirit to SPEAK!

f. If you’re going to speak in tongues you have to speak! You have to use your vocal chords, your wind, your tongue; you must use your voice but you trust the Holy Spirit to form the words of a new language as you do the speaking!

g. Speaking in tongues bypasses your intellect! Your mind will mess you up if you do not speak out by faith! Be bold!

Review

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Be sure it is God’s will to baptize you in the Holy Spirit**
 - **Earnestly desire the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
 - **Earnestly pray for the baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- **Have faith the Father will give nothing but what He promised**
- **You must do the speaking trust the Spirit to give the language!**

B. One Final Word to Those Who Have Been Baptized in the Holy Spirit

1. We are going to pray for everyone: for those who have yet to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but also for those who have.

2. Here’s a verse the 2nd group:

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks

**always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

3. In Greek, the phrase “be filled with the Spirit” is in what is called the imperative present passive or the continual present tense; it could be literally translated as “be being filled with the Spirit”, and implies a continuing experience; being “filled with the Holy Spirit” is not a one-time experience. The relentless pursuit of worship is the daily goal of the Spirit-filled life.

Matthew Henry

“We must ask for the Holy Spirit, not only as necessary in order to our praying well, but as inclusive of all the good things we are to pray for; we need no more to make us happy, for the Spirit is the worker of spiritual life, and the earnest of eternal life. Note, the gift of the Holy Ghost is a gift we are every one of us concerned earnestly and constantly to pray for.”

Matthew Henry

PRAYER AND MINISTRY

Additional Notes on Baptism

The English word “baptism” is from the Latin verb “bapto” which means ‘to dip’; literally, “to dip into a fluid and take it out again”.

Here are some Bible verses where the term is used:

Luke 16:24

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

John 13:26-27

26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

Revelation 19:13-14

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

2 Kings 5:14

Naaman went down and dipped himself 7 times in the river Jordan.

There are 2 distinct features of baptism as an experience:

1. It is total, in the sense that it involves the whole person (submerged)

2. It is transitional, in the sense that it marks a transition; a passing from one realm or stage of experience into a new realm or stage of experience never previously entered into.

“The act of baptism may be compared to the opening and closing of a door. The person being baptized passes through a door, opened up to him by the act of baptism, out of something old and familiar into something new and unfamiliar; and thereafter the door is closed behind him and there is no way of returning back through that closed door into the old ways and the old experiences.”
Derek Prince