

Go: Pathway to Purpose, Baptisms

Baptisms testify to a transition between the old sinful life and the new righteous one. Submerged into His water and His Spirit, set apart and empowered.

The Sinfulness of Men

Like an animal born in a zoo, born into captivity and withheld in cages. We too were born prisoners of sin until the Lord Jesus Christ delivered us.

Genesis 6:5-6

New Living Translation

5 The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6 So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart.

The Grace of God

Genesis 6:8-18

New Living Translation

8 But Noah found favor with the Lord.

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. 10 Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence.

12 God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was

corrupt. 13 So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

14 "Build a large boat[a] from cypress wood[b] and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. 15 Make the boat

450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.[c] 16 Leave an 18-inch opening[d] below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

17 “Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. 18 But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives.

Genesis 7:17-23

New Living Translation

17 For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. 18 As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. 19 Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, 20 rising more than twenty-two feet[a] above the highest peaks. 21 All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. 22 Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. 23 God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat.

- Noah believed the Lord and got on the ark. Everything beneath him died in the water, but He was lifted up, raised to life.
- The water washed away all that was living on the earth/land/dust.

Baptism in Water

Matthew 3:1-6

New Living Translation

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, 2 “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.[a]” 3 The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”[b]

4 John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. 5 People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. 6 And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

- Nobody Noah preached to believed Him when He said the rain is coming, even though they saw the ark.
- But as John preached they began to see within themselves the sinfulness that God saw, and they repented and turned to God.
- This was not salvation only repentance and looking for the coming Ark, Jesus Christ, because the Kingdom of Heaven was indeed near and still is today.

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

New Living Translation

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

15 But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.[a]” So John agreed to baptize him.

16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened[b] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

- The baptism of Jesus was not for repentance he had no sins, but for obedience, empowering, and affirmation. “To carry out all that God requires.”

- We are publicly baptized to say that we have died to sin and emerged as children of God. But during the baptism of Jesus God Himself affirmed that Jesus was His Son.
- The Holy Spirit came upon Him

Why Are We Baptized?

Matthew 28:18-20

New Living Translation

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- We are baptized because Jesus said so!
- Because we have turned from sin and are now followers of Jesus. With an expectation of be taught all of His commands, and then obey them.

Water Baptism Symbolism

Romans 6:3-11

New Living Translation

3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. 9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should

consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

- Everything beneath Noah died in the water, but He was lifted up, raised to life.
- Baptism symbolizes that we have went down into a grave just as Christ did, but then we are raised to life just as He was.
- The flood washed away all that was living on the earth/land/dust.
- Our bodies being submerged in water symbolizes that our souls have been washed in the cleansing blood of Jesus.
- We must remain submerged in His death, to be sustained by His life. We can't breathe under water so we must stay submerged and live in Him. Humans are dependant upon air so they come up from the water.
- But as new creations in Christ we must stop coming up for lust and stay in love.
- Galatians 2:20
New King James Version
20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- When a baby is born the mother's water must break, and as we are born again coming out of the water symbolized the new birth we have experienced. Hower this time we have been born of the spirit.
- John 3:6 (New Living Translation) Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

Men Baptize in Water, Jesus Baptizes in Fire/Holy Spirit

Acts 11:11-18

New Living Translation

11 "Just then three men who had been sent from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. 12 The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles. These six brothers here accompanied me, and we soon entered the home of the man who had sent for us. 13 He told us how an

angel had appeared to him in his home and had told him, ‘Send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. 14 He will tell you how you and everyone in your household can be saved!’

15 “As I began to speak,” Peter continued, “the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning. 16 Then I thought of the Lord’s words when he said, ‘John baptized with[a] water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God’s way?”

18 When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life.”

- Peter said that as he began to speak, what did he speak? Salvation in Jesus Christ!
- At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit fell upon these men.
- Peter said that God gave them the same gift he gave them when we believed. Who was the gift? The Holy Spirit! Who was the giver? God.
- Galatians 3:2 New Living Translation
2 Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-18

New Living Translation

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 “If you love me, obey[a] my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.[c] 18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

New Living Translation

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Romans 5:5

New Living Translation

5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 8:5

New Living Translation

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

Romans 8:26

New Living Translation

26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

Romans 15:13

New Living Translation

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.