



Water Baptism

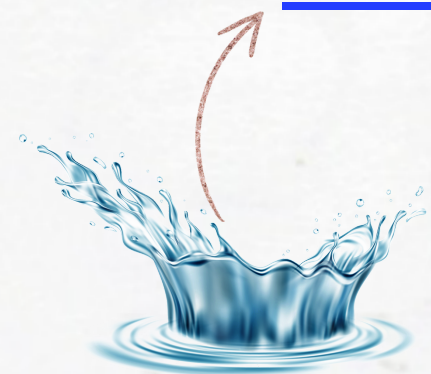
& The New Covenant

Born Again

3 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.



John 3:3-5 KJV



1. Death before Birth Again

If someone is alive they must **DIE WITH CHRIST**
FIRST in order to be **BORN AGAIN.**

If someone is already dead they must **DIE WITH**
CHRIST FIRST in order to be **BORN AGAIN.**

How does **DYING WITH CHRIST** occur so we can
be born again or living to a newness of life?



2. Death Through Baptism

3 Do you not know that **all of us** who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in **newness of life.**

Romans 6:3-4 NRSV



Born New



Buried In Baptism

11 In him also you were circumcised with a *spiritual circumcision*, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

12 when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:11-12 NRSV

Death, Burial, & Resurrection

Going down in water is the Death and Burial.

Coming up out of the water is the Resurrection.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will **certainly be united** with him **in a resurrection** like his.

Romans 6:5 NRSV

What Shall We Do?

37 Now when they heard this they were stung (cut) to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles (special messengers), **Brethren, what shall we do?**

38 And Peter answered them, **Repent** (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) **and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness** of and release from **your sins**; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 2:38 AMPC

Following After Jesus

16 And when **Jesus was baptized**, He went up at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the ***Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.***

17 And behold, a voice from heaven said, This is My Son, My Beloved, in **Whom I delight!**

Matthew 3:16-17 AMPC

Command of Jesus

19 Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded
you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 AMPC

3. To Be Born Again

- 1) **Repent**, **Believe** and **Confess** Jesus Christ the Son of God as Lord.
- 2) Die & be Raised with Christ through **Water** baptism.
- 3) Receive the gift of the Holy **Spirit**.

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being **born of water** and **Spirit**."

John 3:5 NRSV



**Born
Again**

4. Believe Before Baptism

16 The one who believes and is baptized *will be saved*, but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:16 NRSV

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?*

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.

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 8:36-38 KJV



Believe & Be clothed in Christ

26 for in Christ Jesus you are **all children** of God through faith.

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27 NRSV

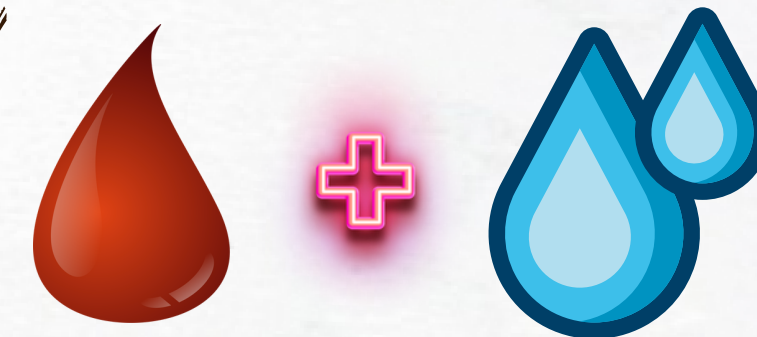
Baptism Saves

21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for *a good conscience*, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 3:21 NRSV



Clear Conscience



21 And **baptism**, which this prefigured, **now saves you**—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for [a good conscience](#), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 3:21 NRSV

22 let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with [our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience](#) and our bodies [washed with pure water](#).

Hebrews 10:22 NRSV

14 how much more **will the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, [purify our conscience](#) from dead works to worship the living God!

Hebrews 9:14 NRSV

Water & Spirit

5 he **saved us**, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the **water of rebirth** and **renewal by the Holy Spirit**.



Titus 3:5 NRSV



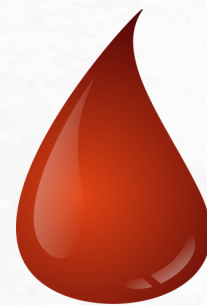
Blood, Water, Spirit

6 This is the one who came by **water** and **blood**, **Jesus Christ**, not with the water only **but with the water and the blood**. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the **Spirit is the truth**.

7 There are three that testify:

8 the **Spirit** and the **water** and the **blood**, and **these three agree**.

1 John 5:6-8 NRSV



Do Not Delay

16 And now why do you delay? Get up, **be baptized**, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.'

Acts 16:22 NRSV

Do not delay a water baptism when you have the opportunity that same day to go down in water and die with Christ and be born again to a newness of life.

Exceptions

- 1)** The thief on the cross. The thief repented and confessed Jesus as Lord before his death. **He was unable to be baptized** because he was on the cross with Jesus. God is merciful and people who repent, believe and confess Jesus as Lord on their death bed with a sincere heart shall be saved.
- 2)** If there is no water available. **For example:** Christians were imprisoned for their faith. If they lead someone to Jesus in prison and there is no water to baptize they can use the little water that is rationed to them daily and pour some on the head of the new convert. (found in the didache of the apostles)

Early Church 1

"And when we come to refute them [the gnostics], we shall show in its fitting place that this class of men have been instigated by Satan to a denial of that baptism which is regeneration to God, and thus to a renunciation of the whole [Christian] faith... **For the baptism instituted by the visible Jesus was for the remission of sins.**"

Irenaeus Against Heresies, Book 1, Chapter 21:1-2

Early Church 2

"41 I asked her, Lady, **why is the tower built upon the [note: Baptism.] water?** She replied, I said before to thee that thou wert very wise to inquire diligently concerning the building, therefore thou shalt find the truth.

42 Hear therefore why the tower is built upon the water: ***because your life is and shall be saved by water.*** For [note: Namely, the tower.] **it is founded by the word of the almighty and honourable name**, and is supported by the invisible power and virtue of God."

Shepherd of Hermas Book 1, Chapter 3:41-42

Early Church 3

"75 And what are the rest which fell by the water, and **could not roll into the water?**

76 They are such as have heard the word, **and were willing to be baptized in the name of the Lord;** but considering the great holiness which the truth requires, have withdrawn themselves, and walked again after their wicked lusts."

Shepherd of Hermas Book 1, Chapter 3:75-76

Early Church 4

"18 ¶ And I said unto him, I have even now heard from certain teachers, that there is no other repentance **beside that of baptism; *when we go down into the water,*** and receive the forgiveness of our sins; and that after that, we must sin no more, but live in [note: Chastity.] purity. "

Shepherd of Hermas Book 2, Chapter 4:18

Early Church 5

"For, he continued, before a man bears the name of the Son of God he is dead; but when he receives the seal he lays aside his deadness, and obtains life. The seal, then, is the water: they descend into the water dead, and they arise alive. And to them, accordingly, was this seal preached, and they made use of it that they might enter into the kingdom of God."

Shepherd of Hermas Book 3, Chapter 9

Early Church 6

"**Baptize into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit** in running water. But if they have not living water, baptize into other water; and if thou cannot in cold, in warm. But if thou have not either, pour out water thrice upon the head into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit."

The Didache of the Apostles, Chapter 7

Early Church 7

"First of all it bids us bear in mind that **we have received baptism for the remission of sins**, in the name of God the Father, and **in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God** who was incarnate and died and rose again, and in the Holy Spirit of God. And that this **baptism is the seal of eternal life**, and is the new birth unto God, that we should no longer be the sons of mortal men, but of the eternal and perpetual God."

Irenaeus, Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching, Chapter 7

JEWISH CUSTOMS

Baptism (*Mikveh*)

Leviticus 14:1–9 Ceremonial washings are as old as the *Torah* itself. God commanded the Hebrew people to wash their clothing before he gave them the law at Mount Sinai (see Exod. 19:10). In Leviticus 8 and 16, Aharon and his sons were commanded to wash before they ministered in the Tabernacle, and there were ritual cleansings for various flows of body fluids (see Lev.15). Perhaps the most instructional passage in the *Torah* about the act of total immersion (*t'vilah*) is the healing of leprosy.

The practice of *mikveh* (the ritual bath where *t'vilah* was performed) was quite common in the Second Temple period, as shown by the large number of references to this custom in the Talmud. The ritual immersions for healings and service continued as prescribed by the *Torah*. With the destruction of the Temple, the custom of *mikveh* also changed. The priests' cleansings and the related healings were no longer practical, though modern Judaism maintains the need for *mikveh* in some situations.

The Bible says little about the actual construction of a *mikveh*. However, what the Bible leaves undefined, the rabbis have elucidated in great detail. Despite all details, one should not lose sight of the *mikveh's* meaning. The Bible draws a distinction between the holy

and the profane. The waters of the *mikveh* teach the Jewish people a great deal concerning these truths. One Jewish interpretation of the *mikveh* relates it to an experience of death and resurrection, and also to the reentry into the womb and reemergence. Immersed fully, one is like the fetus in the womb, and coming up out of the water, it is as if one is reborn. The individual who has sinned and become impure is transformed; he dies and is resurrected and becomes a new creation, like a newborn child (Buxbaum 569). The most prominent example of total immersion in the New Testament is found in John 1. Yochanan the Immerser (John the Baptizer) was a prophet who practiced it as an integral part of his ministry. This account matches many of the details already known about *mikveh* of that day and its significance in the Jewish culture.

The High Holy Days, which include the Jewish New Year (*Rosh-HaShanah*) and the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), is the most focused time of year when Isra'el assesses her spiritual condition and turns back to God. To this day, men still immerse in the *mikveh* as a sign of their inward cleansing as they spiritually prepare for the Holy Days.

For more on "Jewish Customs," see reading at Numbers 15:37–41.

Born Again then Die?

...a man be born of water and of the Spirit..



If people are **Born Again only by the Holy Spirit** why do they have to **DIE with Christ** if they are already **Born Again**?



Are they being Born Again a second time?

Everyone must Die with Christ. How are people born again BEFORE Dying with Christ?

Death Before Born Again

...a man be born of water and of the Spirit..

Jesus says that a person **IS Born Again** when they **ARE Born**
of **WATER & SPIRIT**

