

# Baptisms 2024 (Part 1)

*Hebrews 6:1-3 - Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, **Of the doctrine of baptisms**, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. [Emphasis added are mine]*

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ

*I Corinthians 15:1-4,14,17 - Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, **which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**  
And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.  
And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. [Emphasis added are mine]*

The doctrine of baptisms is so intertwined with the gospel of Jesus Christ that I felt it necessary to introduce this doctrine with the gospel. Paul declared the gospel unto the Corinthians and the gospel was well received by them. Paul told them if they hold fast to it and abide in it, that it would ensure their salvation, unless they believed in vain. The gospel of Jesus Christ does not end at His death. He rose again in three days. The gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was inseparable. They all are equally essential in fulfilling the salvation, healing, and deliverance of God's people.

Paul stressed the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and said if He never rose from the grave than our faith would be in vain (useless) and we would still be in our sins. The resurrection of Christ is so important that if it never took place, then we can say Jesus was merely a man, a false prophet, who led away many people to destruction, including us who believe in Him today. But the reality of it is that He was not just a man or false prophet. He was God come in the flesh prepared to die for our sins and pay the penalty for our transgressions. He came to abolish the works of the devil and set His people free. This is the glorious work of Jesus Christ and the cross.

The gospel is very simple. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the gospel to preach. Think specifically about what was preached to you when you entered into the New Covenant by the water and the Spirit. Think about what you hear preached today that supposedly represents the gospel. Is it different? Has something been added to it or taken away from it? Whatever you have experienced or have heard preached from the many different denominations that are out there, you need look no further than the scriptures to find out what was the gospel preached by the apostles. There is only one gospel and this is it: Jesus Christ died for our sins

fulfilling many prophecies from the Old Covenant. He was buried for three days and on the last day He rose again.

The book of Acts has so many examples of how this gospel was preached and what the apostles said. You can read Peter's messages, Paul's messages, Stephen's messages, Phillip's messages and compare them with what you hear preached today as "the gospel". I encourage you stick with what the apostles of the 1<sup>st</sup> century preached. You can't go wrong.

Over the centuries many things have been added to and taken away from the simplicity of the gospel. The simplicity of the gospel has been clearly recorded and is undoubtedly the power of God that grants salvation to everyone that will believe in it (Romans 1:16) and Paul was not ashamed to preach this glorious truth.

The response of a believer to that gospel is just as simple and clear. Jesus said that a man could not see the kingdom of God unless he were born again. To clarify He also said that to be born again, and see and enter into the kingdom, one must be born of the water and the Spirit (John 3:1-5). Notice born of the water and the Spirit are both required. They are also inseparable as a testimony of being born again.

### **Hearers and Doers – Faith and Obedience**

For the gospel of Jesus Christ to be applied to our lives, to be relevant and a reality, we must hear it and obey. We have had the privilege of hearing the gospel. We must respond to hearing the gospel by obeying the gospel. What does it profit a man to hear the Word and do nothing? Or what does it profit a man to know that a furious hurricane is coming if he doesn't board up his home or find shelter on house of solid rock and fortitude to withstand the onslaught?

*Luke 7:28-30 - For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him. [Emphasis added are mine]*

Jesus spoke to all the people, including the Pharisees and religious leaders of His day, that there was not a greater prophet to have lived than John the Baptist. All that heard Him justified God, , except those religious leaders. The people who justified God were those baptized according to John's baptism, but the religious leaders were not baptized of John. According to the Word of God, those religious leaders rejected "the counsel of God" given through John the Baptist to baptize unto repentance for the forgiveness of sins. How do we know that? They did not obey the Word of God in not being baptized by John.

Instead of submitting to the Word of God, which is demonstrated by obedience to the Word, the Pharisees came around another time to try to trip up Jesus concerning John the Baptist.

*Matthew 21:23 - And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?*

The religious leaders tried to confront Jesus through the back door. They recognized His authority (or acted as if they did) and asked Him where did He get His authority from?

*And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.*

Jesus answered that He would answer their question if they answered His.

***The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?***

He confronted them concerning the baptism of John. Remember what John the apostle said concerning the Pharisees. They had rejected the counsel of God.

So Jesus asks them if the baptism of John was from heaven or from men? By heaven, he meant was the baptism of John from God? By men, He meant did the baptism of John originate as a man-made idea?

*And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.*

The religious leaders counseled among themselves as to what to answer. If they would say from heaven, meaning the baptism of John came from God, then their words would judge them for they had not obeyed God.

Notice this passage says that if they would have chosen this answer, it would be asked of them, why did they not believe? In this context, believing was tied to obeying. In other words, if they had believed John the Baptist they would have been baptized. Since they didn't believe John, they didn't get baptized.

If they would say from men, then the people would "have at them" because the people recognized that John was a prophet of the Highest (Luke 1:79). Sheepishly, cowardly, they answered, "we don't know?" For their cowardice, Jesus did not tell them by what authority He did these things.

These events alone should testify of the importance of baptism in water.

## **Baptize (or Baptism) – What is it?**

Noun: Baptisma – Consist of the process of immersion, submersion and emergence (from the word bapto - to dip)

Verb: Baptizo – to baptize, to dip, (like the dyeing of a garment), to be overwhelmed or swamped under

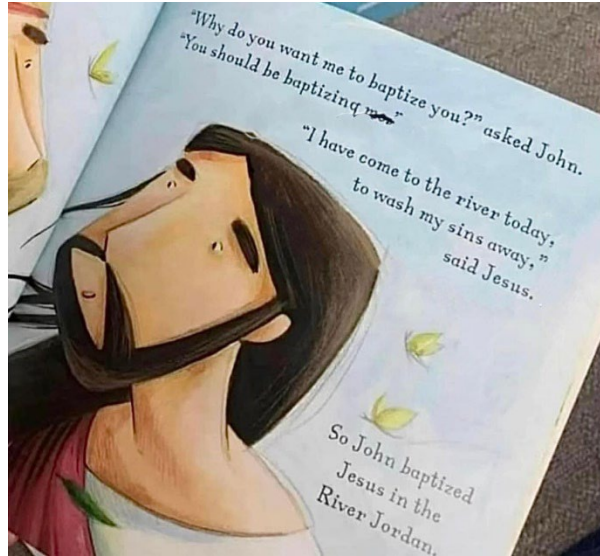
## **Precedents for the Baptism in Water**

We already studied in “Repentance from Dead Works” how baptism was tied to repentance, forgiveness of sins and confessing from sins.

*Matthew 3:1,6,11 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,  
And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.  
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:*

What we also see is John the Baptist did not separate the truth that there would come One that was mightier than he that would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. So we clearly see the legitimacy of a water baptism and a spiritual baptism: one that would immerse us in water for the forgiveness of sins and one that would immerse us in the Holy Spirit. For the latter, however, we do not know the reason yet according to the scriptures we have shared.

Continuing in Matthew we read of this:



*Matthew 3:13-16 - Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [Emphasis added are mine]*

The question must be asked at this point, why was Jesus baptized? Jesus said that he needed to be baptized of John to fulfill all righteousness. That is the first and most important reason.

If we are to attain the righteousness of God in Christ by faith, and it says that He needed to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness, then baptism is to be viewed as a requirement to obtain the righteousness of God. "Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness."

In this passage, John the Baptist, saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Jesus. This was a type or foreshadow of the baptism in the Spirit. John told Jesus that he needed to be baptized by Him. John knew that Jesus was the One that would come after him that would baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire. So when Jesus answered John the Baptist, He was not only referring to the baptism in water, but also the baptism in the Spirit. These "baptisms" were needed to fulfill all righteousness.

Why then was Jesus baptized?

*1 Peter 2:21-24 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own*

*self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. [**Emphasis added are mine**]*

*Philippians 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, **and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. [**Emphasis added are mine**]***

Jesus did not “need” to be baptized in water for He had no sins to repent of or confess. He did not “need” to be baptized in the Spirit for in Him, that is His body, dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead from the moment of His birth (Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20-23; John 4:24; Colossians 2:9). He, as the son of Man, was an example to us of what is expected of man in response and relation to God.

That’s why we see Jesus praying as a man. In his humanity, he depended upon the Spirit of God, and though all the fullness of God indwelt him, he was an example to us of a man being completely dependent upon God. We see that in His humility and obedience to His Father, even when it meant His death.

*John 1:29-34 - The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: **but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. [**Emphasis added are mine**]***

John the Baptist was the only one who saw the Spirit of God descending upon Jesus as a dove. John the Baptist saw this because God said to him that on whomever he saw the Spirit descending and remaining upon, that is the one who would baptize in the Holy Spirit. This was the witness John the Baptist needed to identify who was truly the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and manifest Him to Israel. Thus John the Baptist concludes and testifies that Jesus is this promised Messiah, the Son of God.

This baptismal event does not show that Christ received the Spirit of God at this point. It merely was a witness to John the Baptist of who Jesus really was -the Son of God, the Messiah. God used this event as a confirmation to John the Baptist who saw the Spirit descending and resting upon Jesus. To reiterate, Jesus did not need to be baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins (He knew and did no sin – II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 2:22) and He did not need the baptism in the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of God already indwelt Him, even from His birth. The following scriptures testify to the latter:

*Luke 2:11 - For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is **Christ the Lord**. [Emphasis added are mine]*

The angels spoke to the shepherds that Christ (the Messiah) the Lord, the Savior, was born. He was to be recognized as Lord. If the Spirit of God in all its fullness did not indwell and give life to that body, He could not be considered “Christ **the Lord**”. But the reason He was considered “the Lord” is because God indwelt Him. If this were not true, than Jesus, at His birth, was a mere mortal man, and nothing else and would not be worshipped or recognized as “the Lord”.

*Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. [Emphasis added are mine]*

*Matthew 1:21-23 - And she shall bring forth a son, **and thou shalt call his name JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**. [Emphasis added are mine]*

It was prophesied in the Old Covenant that a virgin (Mary) would bear a son and that this son shall be called Immanuel. When that Son was brought forth (New Covenant), He was called Jesus, thus fulfilling the prophecy that his name will be called Emmanuel – meaning God with us. These scriptures testify that, even at His birth, He was God with us – meaning God with humanity. Again, if the Spirit of God was not in Him, He would be nothing more than a mere mortal man and not to be addressed as God.

*Ephesians 4:1-6 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **One Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. [Emphasis added are mine]*

Looking at this scripture reference, among the many other “one things” that there are, it says there is one Spirit, one Lord, one God, and Father of all. Paul said he was a prisoner of the Lord. Yet all these listings of “one” things mean that there is one Spirit, who is the self-same “one Lord”, who is the self-same “One God”, who is the Father of all. There are not two Lords. Jesus is Lord. There are not two Spirits. There is one Spirit. The Spirit is the Spirit of God and the same Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). Jesus did not have two Spirits in His body. He had the one and only Holy Spirit of God as His own Spirit.

*John 3:22,26 4:1,2 - After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.*

*When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) [Emphasis added are mine]*

Some say water baptism is unimportant. However, Jesus set the example for us to follow, not only by partaking in water baptism (which for Him was personally unnecessary), but also in that He baptized others. Let us now look into the precedents for the baptism in the Spirit.