

## BEYOND FIRST FOUNDATIONS 3 - BAPTISMS

**HEBREWS. 6:1** *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection (NLT- Let us go on instead and become MATURE in our understanding), not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,<sup>2</sup> of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.<sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.*

- **RATHER THAN FOCUS ON THINGS WE ALREADY UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD, **WE MOVE FORWARD** TO EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE TRUTHS IN OUR OWN LIVES, IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OUR WORLD. THIS DEEPER UNDERSTANDING IS THE WORK OF MATURE BELIEVERS TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH.**

### I. WHY WE BAPTIZE NEW BELIEVERS

#### A. THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM

##### 1. IT'S A COMMAND TO BE OBEYED BY BELIEVERS

**Matt. 28:18** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

## 2. IT SIGNIFIES OUR REPENTANCE

**Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

## 3. IT SYMBOLIZES THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

**ROMANS 6:4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- **IT SYMBOLIZES LEAVING SIN BEHIND, EMBRACING NEW LIFE**
- **IT’S A PUBLIC CONFESSION OF FAITH**
- **UNION WITH CHRIST’S DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

## B. WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

**Eph. 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one **baptism** (There are many different baptisms, symbolizing many things. **BUT ONLY ONE CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**)

1. **THE HISTORICAL PRECEDENT- JEWS - signified ritual cleansing, JOHN - signified repentance in preparation for Messiah**

Christian baptism originated from Jewish ritual washings (mikvah) and the repentance baptism of John the Baptist, evolving into a central Christian sacrament of initiation and purification.

- **JESUS' COMMAND INITIATED BAPTISM AS A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL BELIEVERS**

Initiated by Jesus's command, it signifies entering a new covenant, cleansing from sin, and dying/rising with Christ. Early practices focused on adult immersion, with infant baptism emerging later

**Acts 18:25** *This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the **baptism** of John.*

**Acts 19:4** *Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."*

**Acts 19:5** *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> Now the men were about twelve in all.*

## **2. THE PROPHETIC SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM - DEATH TO LIFE**

**1Cor. 10:1** *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (ALL WHO FOLLOWED MOSES*

WERE COMMITTED AFTER LEAVING EGYPT, BUT SOME WAFFLED IN THEIR COMMITMENT AND DIED IN THE WILDERNESS). “<sup>11</sup> Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

- **ORDINANCE OR SACRAMENT? HOW ABOUT BOTH?**

Some traditions view it as necessary for salvation or **sacramental** **grace** (saved through baptism - infant baptism), others view it as an outward symbol of an inward, **already-occurred** salvation.

**SACRAMENT OF SALVATION:** BECAUSE THEY ARE BESTOWED BY JESUS, SACRAMENTS CARRY GRACE INHERENT WITH FOLLOWING THEM

**ORDINANCE OF OBEDIENCE:** Many Protestant traditions view it as an outward, symbolic act of obedience ONLY following personal faith.

**3. TOTAL IMMERSION OR SPRINKLING** (*Baptizo - implies immersion. Dyeing cloth— some believers are tie-dyed*) *The Red Sea, Washing, Leaving behind the old life, Now completely in Christ* **NO TURNING BACK!**

## II. BELIEVER’S BAPTISMS

**Acts 8:36** *Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. **What hinders me from being baptized?**”<sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, “**If you believe***

*with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*

## **A. WATER BAPTISM IS FOR REPENTANCE AND REGENERATION**

**COL. 2:12** *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

## **B. HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM IS FOR POWER**

**Luke 3:16** *John answered, saying to all, “I indeed **baptize** you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”*

**Acts 1:5** *for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ... 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***

## **C. BAPTISM OF THE CROSS (FIRE/SUFFERING) IS FOR MATURITY**

**Mark 10:38** But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the **baptism** that I am baptized with?” **39** They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the **baptism** I am baptized with you will be baptized..

### **III. BEYOND BAPTISM IS REAL TRANSFORMATION**

**1Cor. 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and **behaving like mere men?** <sup>4</sup> For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” **are you not carnal?**

**LEAVE ALL CARNALITY BEHIND - EMBRACE HIS SPIRIT TO LIVE**

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF BAPTISM**

**BAPTISM REPRESENTS A NEW WAY OF LIVING LIFE**