

The Meaning of Baptism

A Personal Bible Study on Immersion

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. *Matthew 3:16 (NIV)*

Many questions and controversies have arisen over baptism. The purpose of this study is to look solely at what the Scripture says regarding this practice. You are encouraged to put aside what other humans have said, whether they be preachers, priests, or parents. Then truly study this subject with an open and obedient mind.

What should (and shouldn't) be the Christian's standard for life?

	The Standard	Not the Standard
Mark 7:8,13		
Acts 5:29		
Proverbs 3:5-6		

Who is baptized in Matthew 3:13-17 and why? (He walked approximately 60 miles to do so)

What was God the Father's reaction to this event?

What was the last thing Christ Jesus told His disciples? (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

What are the disciples told to do along with the baptisms they are to perform?

Acts 2 describes the first time the gospel of Jesus was ever fully communicated. As you read verses 37-41, answer these questions:

When the people were ready to accept Christ, what did Peter tell them to do? (v.38)

What were they assured of if they sincerely took these steps? (vv. 38-39)

When were they baptized? (v. 41)

Which form of baptism do these references point toward, immersion, pouring, or sprinkling?

Now John was baptizing near Aenon because there was plenty of water. - *John 3:23*

As soon as Jesus was baptized he went up out of the water. - *Matthew 3:16*

Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. - *Acts 8:38*

The word *baptism* is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptismos*. That is, the Greek letters were simply changed into English letters. So everywhere you read *baptism* in the New Testament, it is the Greek word *baptismos*, or one of its forms. Here is what accepted Greek scholars give as the meaning of the word *baptismos*:

A dipping in water: Liddell and Scott

Dipping, to dip, to immerse: Arndt **and** Gingrich

The whole person was immersed in water: **Kitto** Encyclopedia

Immersion: Smith's Dictionary

In Galatians 3:26-27 what assurance is given to those who have faith and are baptized?

In 1 Peter 3:21, it says that baptism is "not the removal of dirt from the body," but it is what?

In every case in which a person accepted Christ, as told in the book of Acts, what was there very next step?

Acts 8: 12: People in Samaria

8:36: The Ethiopian Eunuch

10:48: The First Gentiles

16:15: Lydia

16:30-33: The Philippian jailor

18:8: People at Corinth

22:16: The Apostle Paul

Paul Harvey's Conversion

Seemingly, I had everything for which a man could ask. Everything, that is, except a quiet heart. Something was missing. This emptiness was still within. March of last year Angel and I were vacationing in Arizona, and one Sunday morning decided to attend services in a small church on a hilltop. Inside were a dozen or so worshipers on wooden, folding chairs, a scene reminiscent of ones I had seen many times as a youth. I had never made it to the altar in any church, but I liked the promise of "Eternal Life" in John 3:16. I offered my life to Christ. I did indeed "Believe." The minister preached about baptism, and my attention began to focus on the simple eloquence of this country preacher. I twisted in my chair. "submission to God" the minister said. He asked those who wanted to be baptized to join him. I found myself by his side. The preacher said there was nothing magical about the water. Yet as I descended into its depths and rose again, I knew something life-changing had happened. A cleansing inside and out. No longer were there two Paul Harveys-just one happy one. I felt the fulfilling surge of the Holy Spirit. Afterward I cried like a baby. I looked at Angel and her eyes were shining. The change in my life since this simple act has been indescribable.

The glory of the Father, with Him through baptism just as Christ was raised "We were therefore buried into death in order that, from the dead through we too may **live** a new life."

Romans 6:4