

 pathwaychurch

# Baptism

A PERSONAL STUDY

*“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

Many questions and controversies have arisen over baptism. The purpose of this study is to look at what the scriptures say regarding baptism.

### **1. Read the verses below and answer the questions that follow.**

Matthew 3:13-17 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. 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. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

**a. Who is baptized in Matthew 3:13-17 and why?**

**b. What is God the Father’s reaction to this event?**

### **2. Read the verses below and answer the questions that follow.**

Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**a. What was the last thing Christ Jesus told his disciples?**

**b. What are the disciples told to do along with the baptism they are to perform?**

### **3. Acts 2 describes the first time the gospel of Jesus was ever fully communicated. As you read verses 37-41, answer the questions that follow.**

Acts 2:37-41 - When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you. In the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**a. When the people were ready to accept Christ, what did Peter tell them to do?**

**b. What were they assured of if they sincerely took these steps?**

**c. When were they baptized?**

### **4. Read the following verses from the Book of Acts and answer the question that follows.**

Acts 8:12 (People of Samaria) - But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:36 (The Ethiopian Eunuch) - As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

Acts 10:48 (The First Gentiles) - So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Acts 16:15 (Lydia) - When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Acts 16:30-33 (The Philippian Jailer) - He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 18:8 (People at Corinth) - Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

Acts 22:16 (The Apostle Paul) - "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name."

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

### **5. Read the following verses and answer the question that follows.**

Acts 19:1-5 - While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

**What was done when a group of believers did not have a proper understanding of baptism?**

### **6. Read the following verses and answer the questions that follow.**

Romans 6:3-4 - Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**What picture does this verse give you about baptism?**

## 7. Read the following verses and information and answer the question that follows.

John 3:23 - Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

Matthew 3:16 - 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.

Acts 8:38 - And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

The word “baptism” is a transliteration of the Greek word “baptismos.” That is, the Greek letter 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 – Kittel Encyclopedia
- Immersion – Smith’s Dictionary

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

## 8. Read the following verse and answer the question that follow.

1 Peter 3:21 - and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

**This states that baptism is “not the removal of dirt from the body,” but it is what?**

**9. From your study, give answers to the following questions.**

a. Who should be baptized?

b. What method or form is indicated in Scripture?

c. When should a believer be baptized?

**10. Now that you have gone through this study, what are three things you've learned? What questions do you still have?**

If you want to talk with someone about your relationship with Jesus or about baptism, please contact your campus pastor or contact the Pathway offices at **(316) 722-8020** or **info@pathwaychurch.com**.

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

—ROMANS 6:4

## Answer Key:

- 1a. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.
- 1b. God was well pleased.
- 2a. I am with you always.
- 2b. Teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded.
- 3a. Repent & be baptized.
- 3b. To be saved from a corrupt generation.
- 3c. They were baptized that day.
- 4. The next step was being baptized.
- 5. They were told to believe in the one coming after him. They were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6. This verse gives a picture of our death to self and resurrection with Christ.
- 7. These references point to baptism by immersion.
- 8. Baptism is a pledge of a good conscience toward God.
- 9a. Everyone should be baptized.
- 9b. Baptism by immersion is indicated.
- 9c. Believers should be baptized as soon as possible.

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