



Lesson 3

Water Baptism

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is one type of obedience that believers are called to once they have been born again. When most people think of baptism, they think of water baptism. But, did you know that scripture references three types of baptism?

WATER BAPTISM

FIRE BAPTISM

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

In this lesson, we will delve deeper into the topic of water baptism. If Jesus himself was baptized, and in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) He commanded His disciples to baptize others, would it not be wise for us to understand this concept more fully?

The traditional understanding of water baptism is:

A symbol of death to sin, and new life in righteousness.

An outward demonstration that expresses our inward commitment to follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

But, is it just symbolic? Or, is there something more to it?

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER

Without water, life on earth would be impossible.

Our planet is composed of more water than land.

The main component of the human body is water.

We need water for drinking and cooking.

The biggest demand on our water supply is with cleaning applications: our bodies, our clothes, our dishes, our cars, etc.



Washing dirt away is a pleasure, as well as a necessity. It feels bad to be dirty. In this sense, we are getting closer to understanding the significance of Christian water baptism.

THE DEFINITION OF WATER BAPTISM

The Greek word for baptize is ***baptizo***, to make whelmed. Whelm means: to cover with water or other fluid; to cover by immersion in something that envelopes on all sides. To cover completely; to immerse deeply. To throw over as to cover.

Soak and saturate as well as immerse are appropriate words to use in translating the Greek.

Water baptism is the momentary submerging of the body in water. (Matthew 3:16, John 3:23, Acts 8:38)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

MATTHEW 28:19 (NLT)

Baptism is an integral part in obeying the Gospel. It is a matter of obedience, but it is more than that.

Baptism is not just something done by us for Him. It is not just a human action. God actually works through baptism for our blessing! This is highly significant. God uses water baptism as a way to deliver us from our sinful lives into freedom with Christ.

The whole of Scripture emphasizes not what we do for the Lord, but what He does for us. Jesus came to serve and not be served.

“FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE OTHERS AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.” MATTHEW 20:28 (NLT)

BIBLICAL REFERENCES OF WATER BAPTISM

Creation

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. THE EARTH WAS FORMLESS AND EMPTY, AND DARKNESS COVERED THE DEEP WATERS. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE SURFACE OF THE WATERS...

THEN GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE A SPACE BETWEEN THE WATERS TO SEPARATE THE WATERS OF HEAVEN FROM THE WATERS OF THE EARTH."... THEN GOD SAID, "LET THE WATERS BENEATH THE SKY FLOW TOGETHER INTO ONE PLACE, SO DRY GROUND MAY APPEAR." GENESIS 1:1-2, 6, 9 (NLT)

The earth was covered with water, cleansing it in preparation for God's glory to come.

Noah's Ark

...TO THOSE WHO WERE DISOBEDIENT LONG AGO WHEN GOD WAITED PATIENTLY IN THE DAYS OF NOAH WHILE THE ARK WAS BEING BUILT. IN IT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE, EIGHT IN ALL, WERE SAVED THROUGH WATER, AND THIS WATER SYMBOLIZES BAPTISM THAT NOW SAVES YOU ALSO- NOT THE REMOVAL OF DIRT FROM THE BODY BUT THE PLEDGE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD. IT SAVES YOU BY THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST... 1 PETER 3:20B-21 (NIV)

The earth was immersed in water. It was a burial of all evil and a cleansing of the land.

Moses and the Parting of the Red Sea

I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS IN THE WILDERNESS LONG AGO. ALL OF THEM WERE GUIDED BY A CLOUD THAT MOVED AHEAD OF THEM, AND ALL OF THEM WALKED THROUGH THE SEA ON DRY GROUND. IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA, ALL OF THEM WERE BAPTIZED AS FOLLOWERS OF MOSES. ALL OF THEM ATE THE SAME SPIRITUAL FOOD, AND ALL OF THEM DRANK THE SAME SPIRITUAL WATER. FOR THEY DRANK FROM THE SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT TRAVELED WITH THEM, AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-4 (NLT)

This is a baptism of deliverance from the enemy and a resurrection to a new position.

John the Baptist

THIS MESSENGER WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST. HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS AND PREACHED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED TO SHOW THAT THEY HAD REPENTED OF THEIR SINS AND TURNED TO GOD TO BE FORGIVEN. MARK 1:4 (NLT)

THEN JESUS WENT FROM GALILEE TO THE JORDAN RIVER TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN. BUT JOHN TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT. "I AM THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU," HE SAID, "SO WHY ARE YOU COMING TO ME?" BUT JESUS SAID, "IT SHOULD BE DONE, FOR WE MUST CARRY OUT ALL THAT GOD REQUIRES." SO JOHN AGREED TO BAPTIZE HIM. MATTHEW 3:13-15 (NLT)

Jesus was sinless and did not need to be baptized for the remission of sins. His baptism was in obedience to the Father. For God's plan to be perfectly fulfilled, it was necessary for Jesus to be baptized and to be baptized specifically by John.

THEN JOHN TESTIFIED, "I SAW THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE FROM HEAVEN AND RESTING UPON HIM. I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THE ONE, BUT WHEN GOD SENT ME TO BAPTIZE WITH WATER, HE TOLD ME, "THE ONE ON WHOM YOU SEE THE SPIRIT DESCEND AND REST IS THE ONE WHO WILL BAPTIZE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. I SAW THIS HAPPEN TO JESUS, SO I TESTIFY THAT HE IS THE CHOSEN ONE OF GOD." JOHN 1:32-34 (NLT)

6 ASPECTS OF WATER BAPTISM

1. Cleansing

In Genesis 1 the earth was cleansed in order to prepare for God's glory.

Both water and blood are used in the Old and New Testament as the two main agents to illustrate God's cleansing. Water is used in cleansing in relation to the different washings of the Law. God gave meticulous instructions to His high priests (Day of Atonement), regular priests (before attending a temple service), each person attending a temple service and scribes (before speaking Yahweh's name) about being cleansed.

Three-fourths of the earth is water and the biggest use of water is for cleansing- dirt from bodies, clothes, food, etc.

But, Jesus tells us that our greatest need for cleansing is internally.

AND THEN HE ADDED, “IT IS WHAT COMES FROM INSIDE THAT DEFILES YOU. FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF A PERSON’S HEART, COME EVIL THOUGHTS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, THEFT, MURDER, ADULTERY, GREED, WICKEDNESS, DECEIT, LUSTFUL DESIRES, ENVY, SLANDER, PRIDE, AND FOOLISHNESS. ALL THESE VILE THINGS COME FROM WITHIN; THEY ARE WHAT DEFILE YOU.” MARK 7:20-23 (NLT)

2. Burial

Noah’s baptism represents a burial of dead people.

OR DON’T YOU KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? ROMANS 6:3 (NIV)

Burials are for dead people – for the wages of sin is death. Before we come to Christ, we are slaves to sin. We have been in the kingdom of darkness, a tool of the enemy.

Burials make death final!

When we come to Christ and profess Him as our Lord and Savior, we die to our old self. A burial is necessary in order to end a life centered on self.

3. Resurrection

Moses’ baptism is a resurrection to a new place.

It is a baptism into a new life and lifestyle.

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. FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH HIM TO A DEATH LIKE HIS, WE WILL CERTAINLY ALSO BE UNITED WITH HIM IN A RESURRECTION LIKE HIS. ROMANS 6:4-5 (NIV)

4. Deliverance

Moses' baptism was a deliverance from those who had enslaved them.

WE KNOW OUR OLD SINFUL SELVES WERE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST SO THAT SIN MIGHT LOSE ITS POWER IN OUR LIVES. WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN.
ROMANS 6:6 (NLT)

We break bonds with our enemy and are no longer slaves to sin. If we submit to Holy Spirit, we can walk free from sin.

5. Identification

We have been baptized WITH Christ, not like Christ. (Romans 6:3-6)

We have been buried WITH Him and have risen WITH Him.

GOD MADE HIM WHO HAD NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 (NIV)

Identification means a close association with a person to the point of sharing their thoughts, feelings, their outlook, and character. We have a lifetime to grow in this!

6. In the name of Jesus

AND NOW WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET UP, BE BAPTIZED AND WASH YOUR SINS AWAY, CALLING ON HIS NAME. ACTS 22:16 (NIV)

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 IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. ACTS 19:3-5 (NIV)

We exchange our name for His.

We now live His life, not our own.

Put on Christ:

SO IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE CLOTHED YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST. GALATIANS 3:27 (NIV)

...AND TO PUT ON THE NEW SELF, CREATED TO BE LIKE GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS. EPHESIANS 4:24 (NIV)

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES. EPHESIANS 6:11 (NIV)

AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES PUT ON LOVE, WHICH BINDS THEM ALL TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY. COLOSSIANS 3:14 (NIV)

We are told to put on a lot of things, but we cannot do that in our flesh. It is only possible through the power of Holy Spirit. It is His work in us.

CONCLUSION

Baptism is neither optional nor irrelevant to the Christian life. It is fundamental to our relationship with Jesus. It should not be done simply because we are following the faith of our parents. It should be done when we have personally determined to totally commit our lives to Jesus. It should be done when we are completely sold out for Him, and deeply in love with Him. Get ready girl, for it will absolutely change your life!

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 (NIV)

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE NEW CREATION HAS COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV)

Baptism is a place where the seen and unseen miracles can occur- miracles of the heart, the soul, even the body.