

Foundations Lesson #4

Water Baptism

As Peter was closing his sermon on the day of Pentecost he instructed his listeners, who were under conviction but had not yet been converted, to do three things: "Repent [get saved]... be baptized... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). It is still God's desire and provision for everyone who comes to him to start their walk with him by doing those three things. This lesson is devoted to the second of these three experiences.

I. the physical act of water baptism

- From the original Greek, baptism has to do with immersing, by submersion and emergence (as in the immersing of a ladle into a punch bowl), or dipping (as in the dyeing of a garment or the drawing of water by dipping one vessel into another); it can even refer to plunging, sinking, or drenching
- going down into the water – Acts 8:38
- coming up out of the water – Matthew 3:16 / Mark 1:9-10 / Acts 8:39
- baptism referred to as a burial – Romans 6:4 / Colossians 2:12
- plenty of water needed to baptize – John 3:23

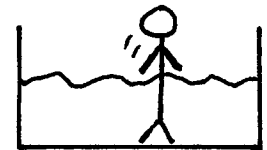
II. the meaning and symbolism of water baptism

- Romans 6:1-11



historical identification:
spiritual identification:
personal identification:

death/burial of Jesus Christ
death/burial to sin
death/burial to self



resurrection of Jesus Christ
risen to new life in Christ
risen submitted to Christ

III. the additional significance of water baptism

- "clothed yourselves with Christ" – Galatians 3:26-27
- gaining "the pledge of a good conscience toward God" – I Peter 3:21
- compared to Old Testament circumcision – Colossians 2:11-13

IV. the necessity of water baptism

- Baptism is commanded. – Acts 2:38 / Acts 10:48 / Acts 22:16
- Jesus commanded the Eleven to baptize the disciples they made. – Matthew 28:18-20
- Even Jesus submitted to baptism as an act of obedience. – Matthew 3:13-17
He is the example for us to follow. – I Peter 2:21 / John 13:15

V. the timing of water baptism

- Acts 2:37-41
- Acts 8:12-13 "when they believed... they were baptized"
- Acts 8:35-38
- Acts 10:47-48 and Acts 11:15-18
- Acts 16:14-15
- Acts 16:32-33
- Acts 18:8

VI. the spoken formula of water baptism

- In Scripture, three phrases are used.
 - "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" – Matthew 28:18-20
 - "in the name of Jesus Christ" – Acts 2:38 / Acts 10:48
 - "into the name of the Lord Jesus" – Acts 8:16 / Acts 19:5
- the practice of some: "On the basis of your confession of the Lord Jesus Christ, I now baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

VII. the order (sequence) of being water baptized and being baptized in the Holy Spirit

- examples of water baptism coming first – Acts 2:38-41 / Acts 8:12-17
- examples of Holy Spirit baptism coming first – Acts 9:17-19 / Acts 10:44-48
- an example of the two coming at pretty much the same time – Acts 19:5-6

VIII. the question of re-baptism

- an incident from the Scripture – Acts 19:3-5
- in the case of infant "baptism"
- in the case of pouring or sprinkling
- In the event of backsliding and subsequent reconciliation with God, it is recommended that the question of re-baptism be resolved by the believer as he walks in light of God's word.

IX. practical matters concerning water baptism

- coming with a towel and a complete change of clothes
- women not wearing wide skirts (Pants are practical.)
- being ready to testify if called upon
- holding your nose closed before going down into the water
- being aware that the Holy Spirit may come upon you
- not touching the microphone – for those wet or standing in the water