

A graphic featuring a blue background with concentric ripples from a water drop. Several water droplets are shown in various stages of falling and splashing. The word "Water" is written in a large, white, cursive font, and "baptism" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

Water baptism

House of Intercessory Prayer Ministries
www.hipm.org

Baptism – Outline

- ✓ Baptism – Definition
- ✓ Common questions around Baptism
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- ✓ Who can be baptized?
- ✓ Can infants be baptized?
- ✓ Do I need to be re-baptized?
- ✓ Is baptism required in order to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit?
- ✓ Can one go to heaven without taking baptism?
- ✓ Is there any divine involvement during baptism or it is just a sign and a ceremony?

Baptism - Definition

- Strong's G907:*baptizō*- (which occurs 86 times in **65** verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV)
 - 1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
 - 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
- Strong's G908 - *baptisma* -immersion, submersion, Matthew 3:7, Acts 19:4 (22 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV)
- Strong's G909 - *baptismos*- a washing, purification effected by means of water, Mark 7:4, Mark 7:8, Hebrews 6:2, Hebrews 9:10 (4 verses in the Greek concordance of the KJV)

Common questions around Baptism

- What About The Thief On The Cross, did he take baptism?
- What About Cornelius And His Household...the spirit came upon them even before they were baptized?
- Wasn't Paul Sent To Preach, Not Baptize? Based on Paul's statement to the church at Corinth- *"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel..."* - 1Corinthians 1:17
- Baptism Is A Work, We Are Not Saved By Works!
- Spirit Baptism Saves Us, Not Water Baptism!
- Does it make any difference who the administrator of baptism is?
- What are the qualifications required to be baptized?
- What is the purpose or design of baptism? Is it in order to salvation?
- Can baptism be scripturally administered by any mode other than immersion?

Baptism – Historical significance

- No explicit reference to baptism in the OT, but such as use of water for ceremonial purification.
- In the law of Moses, cleansings, or baptisms, were for everything from mildew on walls, purification after child birth, acceptance of a healed "leper" back into the community. (Leviticus 12,13 &14)
- Baptism is not mentioned in Jewish rituals , *mikvah-a term used in Hebrew Bible*—ritual immersion
 - Restoration to a condition of "ritual purity" in specific circumstances to qualify for religious participation
 - Ritually defiled by contact with a corpse had to use the "mikvah" before being allowed to participate in the Holy Temple.
 - Immersion is required for converts to Judaism as part of their conversion.

Baptism – Spiritual significance

Baptism is a burial and resurrection with Christ

- It is a baptism into the death of Christ, Romans 6:3
- It is a burial with Christ into death, Romans 6:4
- It is done in order that we might walk in newness of life, Romans 6:4-5
- It involves crucifying the old man, Romans 6:6
- It thereby frees us from sin as we die to sin, Romans 6:7-11

Baptism service is a funeral service. But not just death of the old person, but the resurrection of the new person.

Baptism – Spiritual significance

Baptism is how we put on Christ

- Identification with Christ, Galatians 3:26-27

Baptism is a work of God

- A "spiritual circumcision" in which sins are "cut away", Colossians 2:11
- A burial with Christ, and also a resurrection with Him, Colossians 2:12
- Made effective "through faith in the working of God", Colossians 2:12
- In which GOD makes us "alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses", Colossians 2:13

Baptism – Spiritual significance

Baptism is a "washing" and "regeneration"

Titus 3:5-The term "washing" certainly refers to the baptism

–It is a "**washing of regeneration**" - a washing in we are reborn

–It is a "**renewing of the Holy Spirit**" - a renewal in which the Spirit is at work

–Just as Jesus said: "...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." - John 3:5

Baptism is fulfillment of all righteousness

– Matthew 3:14-16

Who can be baptized?

The Great Commission

Mark 16:15,16 15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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.

- Baptism cannot be administered to an unbeliever.
- Baptism is a step of faith.
- Baptism cannot be administered to the one who has not repented from the sinful life.

Can infants be baptized?

Infants cannot believe, they cannot have faith and they don't need to repent.

Luke 2:21-24

- it was circumcision and naming ceremony - not baptism
- a child dedication service - not baptism

Luke 18:15-16

- children can be brought to the church, Pastor, a minister of God or an elders can lay hands and bless them-that is not baptism

Do I need to be re-baptized?

If the original baptism lacks any of the 4 essential elements, rebaptism is required.

- The proper **mode** - immersion (if the first one was sprinkling, or pouring)
- The proper **authority** - Father, Son and Holy Spirit-Matthew 28:19 (if the first one was in the name of Jesus or Jehovah, some other saints etc.)
- The proper **purpose** - for remission of sins (the one who lost in sins and need forgiveness)(if the first one was infant)
- The proper **subject** - a penitent believer (believer who feels sorry for the sins and repented from such life) (if the first one was given even without knowing what is baptism, for the sake of membership in a church, or as a process of conversion)
- Biblical Evidence of re-baptism Acts 19:3-5

Is baptism required in order to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

- Yes, according to the order God has laid down it is required. Acts 2:38
- But we see an exception in Acts 10:44-48

Can one go to heaven without taking baptism?

Yes, if one dies or Christ comes the moment that person repents and confesses sin and receives the forgiveness of sins from the Lord. But that is not the reality. We need to live a life that pleases God, free of sins in order to go to heaven. When the Israelites walked out of Egypt they thought that they are saved from the bondage of Pharaoh. That was not true. There was **Red Sea** in front of them and Pharaoh's army following them. They need to cross the Red sea to escape from Pharaoh and his army. Once they crossed Red sea, they were safe as the Pharaoh's army was drowned. It is a similar experience during baptism.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, Our salvation doesn't really guarantee heaven, our old man, nature need to be buried under the sea in order to live a successful life only that can assure heaven to us. We do that in Baptism. It doesn't even stop there. There were fiery **serpents and scorpions** in the wilderness Deuteronomy 8:15. We need to escape from that too. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to tread and trample upon all these that can separate us from Christ and make us not reaching heaven.

Is there any divine involvement during baptism or it is just a sign and a ceremony?

No. it is not just a ritual. Certainly it is a powerful experience.

- Jesus experiences it as He came out of the waters, Spirit of God descending upon Him like a dove.
- Seen people receiving anointing of the Holy Spirit during baptism.
- Heard healing taking place during baptism.
- More than physical and outward evidences, it has high spiritual significance as it is a milestone in spiritual journey.
- Inner man becomes more confident as it is a public declaration of one's faith and commitment to the Lord.
- It makes us more accountable to the Lord.
- A great deliverance is experienced as the old man is buried.