

BAPTISM

Grace Begets Faith - Faith Begets Grace

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Romans 12:3

If you are not “saved” by faith in Jesus, Baptism is of no value!

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {27} Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith." Romans 3:24-27

Faith Must Precede Baptism!

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is essential to the subject of Baptism. He performs the work in our hearts. Without Him there is no salvation, and therefore, no need for baptism.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. {13} Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. {15} All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:7,13,15

First of all I do not believe in “3” Gods. God is ONE God and beside Him is no other. I do believe that God can, does, and has manifested himself in many ways. We see in the old testament pre-incarnate appearances of God. Jesus told us, “I and the Father are ONE.” Not as One but “ARE ONE!” Present tense - same as “I AM.” This is truth, and to love one is to love all the Godhead because they are all one. God is a plural singularity! The word "Trinity is not found in the Bible.

We use that word when we are referring to the "three-in-oneness" of God. This what God's Word says:

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 1 John 5:7

The Holy Spirit is God!

Faith Alone Saves!

"He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; {21} And being fully persuaded that, what he [God] had promised, he was able also to perform. {22} And therefore it was imputed [given] to him [Abraham] for righteousness." Romans 4:20-22

Abraham, the thief on the cross, and John the Baptist were not baptized. In Hebrews 11, there weren't many who were baptized. Yet they are all listed as righteous (saved) and faithful God pleasers. If baptism saves me then why do I need faith? Baptism is the obedience of my faith. Getting baptized means, "I'm a believer, and I want to proclaim publicly that I am going to obey God from here-on-out."

"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:26

It doesn't say the justifier of him which is baptized. My Faith in Jesus' righteousness and shed blood is all I need to remit (do away with) my sin, and there is no scripture to show where baptism applies His blood to my account, or makes me righteous before God. Faith alone justifies me in the eyes of God. The Blood of Jesus is enough!

"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? {2} For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. {3} For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. {4} Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. {5} But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Romans 4:1-5

Baptism is a work "of" righteousness not a work "for" righteousness. In other words, righteousness is given to me because of my faith (a gift of God) The works which follow, repentance, baptism, confession, endurance, etc. are the direct result of that gift of faith. They outwardly demonstrate an inward change; repentance towards God. You can't separate the works *of*, not *for*, righteousness from the righteous, any more than you can separate the true believer from God.

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. {18} Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." James 2:17-18

There's the Law of Moses and The Law of Faith, both God-given. The only thing that saves a man is trusting and obeying God's Word by faith.

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk. 2:4 Old Testament - The Law of Moses

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. {17} For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17 New Testament - The Law of Faith

Every believer should be baptized!

Baptism is immersion in water. The Greek word "baptizo" translates "immersed." It's where we get the English word "baptize." Jesus Christ gave specific instructions for baptism.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" Mat 28:19

Some would say only the name "Jesus" should be used for baptism. If you look closely at the names used in Acts "Lord, Jesus, & Christ" you will realize that the first name used is "Lord," that is, "Master." The second, "Jesus," was common in those days. It was given to many that defied Rome. The name means "Deliverer" or "Saviour." There are many today named Jesus, especially Hispanic folk. They consider it honorable and strong. It is. The third, "Christ" is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means "God's Anointed" So what they said was, "The Master, Savior, Messiah." These all name Jesus, but they are not all the word "Jesus."

I am a father, a grandfather, and a husband. I am all these. I, am the authority, and my names carry this authority. If you tell my children "Dad said it," it means I said it. If you tell my grandchildren "Pop-Pop said it," it is the same authority. If you tell my wife, "Gale said it," it's the same. "FATHER," "SON," and "HOLY GHOST" carry the authority and harmony of the Godhead. The apostles always distinguished which "Jesus," they spoke of by adding words like "*whom ye crucified,*" or "*of Nazareth,*" or "*The Lord, Christ*" etc., so people would know which "*Jesus*" they preached. The name alone was not enough to distinguish this to the listeners. The apostles always indicated with other names, which *Jesus* they preached. If you wish to be baptized in the "*name of Jesus,*" do so! The important thing is: **Get Saved, then Get Baptized!**

Baptism Is The First Step of Every Believer!

You'll never grow spiritually if you don't learn to obey God's Word.

"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,." Phil 2:10

All men do not bow. They generally scoff. In Heaven there'll be no scoffing. Every knee will bow, willing or otherwise. When the Bible uses the word "water," it doesn't necessarily mean *baptism*. Be careful as you study, to note the context of a word. Jesus explained, in John 3, a spiritual concept using natural things. Jesus taught about the two births a man must have to see the kingdom of heaven. A person is literally physically born, "of water." We are in water in the womb, immersed, baptized, if you will. Baptism is a picture of death and resurrection from the dead. In our natural birth we are coming to life. God gave us a picture in natural childbirth of our spiritual birth. We who are dead, immersed in sin are resurrected by the Spirit of God. When we are publicly immersed, we picture this.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:" Ephesians 2:1

Jesus uses natural birth to show how spiritual birth works. Spiritual birth must follow natural birth. It was not something you physically witness. Jesus compares the blowing wind to the spiritual birth. You see the effects, but not where it's from, or where it goes. You must be born before you can be born "again". Jesus puts a condition on this second birth. It must be a spiritual birth, not a physical one. Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. Jesus wasn't speaking of water baptism. He would have said, "*Baptized*." Baptized is used freely at the end of the chapter several times.

"I indeed have baptized [immersed] you with water: but he shall baptize [immerse] you with the Holy Ghost." Mark 1:8

- John The Baptist

If you are saved or born again, then you are in Christ. If you are in Christ, then you are in the triune God, in all of His several personages. "In," means by implication, immersed. You cannot be "born again" unless you are resurrected by the Spirit of God, and immersed or "*baptized*" in Him. If you carefully study the book of "ACTS" you will see there was no hesitation for born-again believers to be baptized.

REFERENCES (KJV)

(Acts 1:5) "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

(Acts 2:38) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

(Acts 2:41) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

(Acts 8:12-13) "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. {13} Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done."

(Acts 8:16) "(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)"

(Acts 8:36) "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

(Acts 8:38) "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

(Acts 9:18) "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."

(Acts 10:47-48) "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? {48} And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

(Acts 11:16) "Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost."

(Acts 16:15) "And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us."

(Acts 16:33) "And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."

(Acts 18:8) "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

(Acts 19:3-5) "And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. {4} Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. {5} When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

(Acts 22:16) "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."