

Faith Baptist Church Discipleship Level 1

Lesson 3: The Doctrine of Baptisms

Prepared By M. Adam Summers

Faith Baptist Church Discipleship

Course Level 1

Lesson 3. The Doctrine of Baptisms

In this lesson we are going to discuss one of the most familiar sights in mainstream religion (at least in America). Whether you come from a Catholic, Mormon, Protestant, or Baptist background, you no doubt are familiar with the concept (in some form or another) of baptism. But if asked to explain the “why” behind it, most people would not be able to give a clear explanation.

- Who is baptized?
- When do people get baptized?
- When did baptism begin?
- What is the proper way to be baptized?
- Why do people get baptized?
- Do I need to be baptized?

All of these are great, and important questions; and they are questions that we can answer from our Bible. So, let’s begin.

First, we need to understand that the word “Baptism” does not by necessity have anything to do with water. The word simply means “*to immerse, submerge; to make*

whelmed". However, in the last 300 years it has come to almost always be associated with being immersed in water. So, understanding that "baptize" in the Bible simply means "to be placed in", let's look at baptism in the Bible.

- I. There are 7 different baptisms in scripture. Understanding the difference in each of the baptisms is critically important to understanding the baptism that pertains to you.
 1. The Jewish (or ceremonial) Baptism. This is the washing for symbolic cleansing. There were many instances of this in the Old Testament law, and it is also seen in the New Testament.
 - **John 3:23-26** "And John also was baptizing in AEnon...Then there arose a question between *some of* John's disciples and the Jews about purifying..."
 - **Numbers 19:7-8** Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even. And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even.

- **Hebrews 9:10** *Which stood* only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed *on them* until the time of reformation.
2. The Baptism of Moses. Paul used the example of the Israelites leaving Egypt and passing through the Red Sea, and dwelling under the cloud of God's presence, as an example of baptism. While under Egyptian bondage, they answered to Pharaoh through the task masters; but they left Egypt through the Red Sea (baptized in the Red Sea), and then answered to God through Moses. They "were all baptized unto Moses".
 - **1 Corinthians 10:1-2** Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
 3. The Baptism of Fire. This refers to the entire lost world being cast out into the fire of God's judgement at the end of the world. We are told that after all of the grain as been threshed and separated from the chaff, the grain will be stored, and the chaff will be burned in the fire.

- **Matthew 3:11-12** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.
 - **Revelation 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
4. The Baptism of Suffering/Death. This refers to being put into suffering, persecution, and eventual death. Jesus told his disciples that one day they would all eventually experience this baptism.
- **Matthew 20:22-23** But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to

give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father.

- **Luke 12:50** But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

5. The Baptism of Repentance (or John’s Baptism). This refers to the baptism that John performed leading up to Jesus’ death on Calvary. This was an outward shew of an inward change. John’s message was, “repent!”, and as people heard and heeded his message, they came to shew their repentance by being baptized.

- **Mark 1:4** John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- **John 1:31** And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.
- **John 3:22** After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

6. Baptism of The Holy Ghost. This is the saving baptism. This takes place at the point of salvation. When a person says “yes” to Jesus Christ for salvation, he is placed into

(that's the meaning of baptism) the Body of Christ, by the Holy Ghost.

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

7. Baptism of the Saved (Believer's Baptism). This is the baptism that all believers should take part in. It is baptism not FOR salvation, but rather, BECAUSE of salvation.

- **Acts 8:36-38** 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? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 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 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.

Ephesians 4:5 speaks of there being only one baptism that pertains to the “calling” of the believer. All of the baptisms listed above can be performed by many different people except for one. Only the Holy Spirit can baptize someone into the church. That is the “one baptism” spoken of in **Ephesians 4:5**.

This is a very condensed and shallow study of the Doctrines of Baptisms. Now, lets look a little bit deeper into the baptism that should directly affect the new believer; it is Believer’s Baptism by water.

I. Water Baptism Does Not Have A Part in Our Salvation.

- Water baptism cannot have a part in our salvation because it is a work, it is something that you do. The Bible says that salvation is not of works. Also, the Bible makes it clear that baptism is not part of the Gospel.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

II. Water Baptism Is Commanded.

- Even though water baptism isn't required for salvation, it is important as obedience to Christ. Every Christian should be baptized in water.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

III. Water Baptism Is Following The Lord's Example.

- Jesus was baptized in water not to be saved, but to show us what we should do to "fulfil all righteousness" in our own individual walk with God. Obeying the command of being baptized in water lets us continue on a path where God can be well pleased with us.
- **Matthew 3:15-17** And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then

he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- **1 Peter 2:21** For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
- **1 John 2:6** He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

IV. Water Baptism Has One Condition.

- You must be saved before you can be scripturally baptized. Therefore the baptism of babies cannot be scriptural.
- **Acts 8:35-38** Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 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? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered

and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 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.

V. Water Baptism Is By Immersion.

- The word “Baptize” means to immerse, or to be put into. Therefore, water baptism is placing someone into the water. Thus, the practice of sprinkling is unscriptural.
- **Matthew 3:16** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
- **Acts 8:38-39** 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. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

VI. Water Baptism Is A Picture And A Testimony.

- **Romans 6:1-7** shows that water baptism is a picture, symbol, or figure of how Christ died and was buried (going under the water), and how he rose from the dead (coming out of the water).
- **Colossians 2:12** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
- Therefore, it is an identification with, and testimony of, one's conversion and salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Questions for Review:

1. What does the word “Baptism” mean? _____

2. How many different kinds of baptisms do we find in the Bible? _____
3. According to Acts 8:35-38, what is the only requirement/condition for someone to take part in Believer’s Baptism? _____

4. According to Romans 6:1-7, what does baptism provide a picture of? _____

5. What is the Bible’s position on infant Baptism? _____

6. According to Matthew 3:16, and Acts 8:38-39, how were people baptized (what method)? _____

7. In just two or three sentences, tell about when you were baptized (or when you plan to be baptized). _____

