

# WATER BAPTISM

## PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

### KEY VERSES:

*“So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”*

**Hebrews 6:1-2 NLT**

### CENTRAL TRUTH:

The next elementary principle is doctrines of baptisms, referring to both **water** and **Spirit** baptism. In this lesson we will study water baptism.

Water baptism is the second of **three** key elements of conversion and immediately follows repentance and faith or the new birth experience.

## I. WATER BAPTISM COMMANDED

### A. What is water baptism?

1. The word Baptism means to **immerse** or submerge, also to dip. Therefore, water baptism is the process of immersing or dipping a person in water. We see this described at the baptism of Jesus and the Ethiopian Eunuch.

*“One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized Him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, He saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on Him like a dove.” - Mark 1:9-10 NLT*

*“As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.” - Acts 8:36-39 NLT*

2. The Bible prescribes no special body of water for baptism such as a river, lake, sea, etc., only that there is enough water to **immerse** the candidate.

3. The qualification of the person performing the baptism is also unspecified in scripture. However, several verses of scripture do imply that anointed Christian **leaders** perform the services such as a pastor, an elder or a deacon.

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4. The typical water baptism will include prayer with the laying on of hands by the minister, calling aloud the name of Jesus as the candidate is let down into the water (Acts 22:16,) and great rejoicing by those in attendance.

### B. Water baptism is a **command** to all believers.

1. Jesus Himself was baptized so as to fulfill all **righteousness**.

*“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*

2. Jesus commanded His disciples to **go** to the nations preaching and baptizing new disciples.

*“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*

3. Peter commanded **everyone** to be baptized.

*“Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” - Acts 2:38 NLT*

*“So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.” - Acts 10:48 NLT*

4. Paul was himself baptized and later baptized other **converts**.

*“Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.” - Acts 9:18 NLT*

*“As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” - Acts 19:5 NLT*

### C. Water baptism should take place **immediately** after conversion.

1. Paul **arose** and was baptized at once. (Refer to Acts 9:18)

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2. The Philippian jailer was baptized immediately.

*“They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.” And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.”*

- Acts 16:31-33 NLT

### D. What conditions precede being water baptized?

1. Receiving the Word of God with **gladness**.

*“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.”* - Acts 2:41 NLT

2. **Faith** toward God.

*“But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.”* - Acts 8:12 NLT

*“As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized.”* - Acts 8:36 NLT

3. **Repentance**.

*“Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”* - Acts 2:37-38a NLT

## II. WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON SPIRITUALLY AT BAPTISM?

- A. Believers are united with **Christ** in water baptism.

*“And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.”* - Galatians 3:27 NLT

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**B. We **identify** with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection in the waters of baptism.**

*“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” - Romans 6:3-5 NLT*

**C. The Holy Spirit performs a spiritual surgery called the **circumcision** of Christ. As circumcision of the flesh was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham and his children, so water baptism signifies our covenant with God through Jesus Christ.**

*“When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.” - Colossians 2:11-12 NLT*

### III. OLD TESTAMENT TYPES OF WATER BAPTISM

The Bible teaches that events in the Old Testament foreshadowed those of the New Testament. Therefore, a great deal can be learned about baptism by studying its Old Testament types. Predominately, we will learn that water baptism separates us from a corrupt society and from our **past** lives.

#### A. **Noah's** Baptism

*“those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” - I Peter 3:20-21 NLT*

1. Noah was warned by God of the impending judgment and instructed to build an **ark** for the saving of his household.

*“It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.” - Hebrews 11:7 NLT*

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2. Noah's faith and obedience **transformed** the devastating flood into a glorious means of salvation. He was 'saved by water.'

*"those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood."*  
- I Peter 3:20 NLT

3. Noah's baptism was a separation from the corrupt society of his day just as our baptism separates and distinguishes us from this corrupt **society**.

*"Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all."* - Acts 2:40-41a NLT

4. Noah experienced salvation by grace and was a just man prior to the **flood**, his baptism experience. We too are saved and justified before our water baptism.

*"But Noah found favor with the Lord."* - Genesis 6:8-9 NLT

### B. Moses' Baptism

*"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."* - I Corinthians 10:1-2 NLT

1. Here we learn that it was a type of water baptism when the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea underneath the cloud of God's glory. Their baptism experience saved them out of the hands of the **Egyptians**. Egypt represents our past life of bondage to sin.

*"That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore."*  
- Exodus 14:30 NLT

2. **Israel** had been saved from death several days earlier by the blood of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12.) Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb, whose blood is applied to our life at the point of our faith and repentance.

*"Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us."* - I Corinthians 5:7 NLT

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3. The sins of Israel while in Egypt were washed away as they passed through the **sea**.

*“What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.” - Acts 22:16 NLT*

### C. Baptism, A New **Beginning**

Water baptism is a final **end** and a new beginning. It is the burning of bridges and an initiation into a new life. Like Noah and Moses, New Testament believers are saved from the corruption of society and their past life and enter a new life in covenant with God.

*“Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” - Acts 2:38, 40 NLT*

1. Noah stepped out of the ark into a new life of **dominion** and **fellowship** with God.

2. Israel became a **free** nation and began a new era of history as God’s people.

### **SUMMARY:**

Water baptism is a **supernatural** experience that imparts a special grace to the believer. A new convert should be baptized immediately as a token of their new covenant with God, and should recognize baptism as a final end and separation from their old life and the beginning of a new life in Christ.