

Water Baptism Classes: Lesson 2 – Baptism in Water²

Baptism can be defined as

- An act of obedience to God ... **Matthew 28:19-20 (Scripture 1)**

¹⁹ Go ^[a]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” ^[b]Amen.

It should be noted from this passage that in order to be effective, water baptism has to be combined with being a disciple of Jesus Christ,

a person who seeks to learn and obey everything the Lord Jesus commands.¹

1) What is baptism?

To submerge the believer in water, because in Greek the word is written "baptizo."

The part of the word "iz" is always used in the sense of causing something to be or to happen and "bapto" = "submerge."

Thus, "baptize" can be defined as "making something be submerged in a liquid and taking it out again."

2) Current Types of Baptisms

There are 3 main types of baptisms in which Christians should participate:

1. The new birth, which occurs when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior el cual ocurre cuando aceptamos a Jesucristo como nuestro Señor y

Salvador, is one of these baptisms.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (Scripture 2) indicates that the new birth es a type of baptism.

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink ^[a]into one Spirit.

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2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is another type of baptism.

Matthew 3:11 (Scripture 3) indicates that the Lord Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. In this verse, John the Baptist speaks about Jesus Christ.

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit [\[a\]](#)and fire.

Acts 8:14-17 (Scripture 4) indicates that the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the new birth are different experiences, and therefore different baptisms:

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

3. Water baptism is the third main type of baptism. We do NOT get saved by getting water baptized. **Acts 8:36-38 (Scripture 5)** indicates that baptism is an external sign of an internal change that has already been achieved by having faith in the Lord Jesus. In these verses, the eunuch is born again by confessing his belief in the Lord Jesus before he gets baptized in water.

³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

³⁷ [\[a\]](#)Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Water baptism serves as a symbolic demonstration of what has happened in the new birth. It is a public declaration of the following:

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- 1) I have died with Christ (symbolized by being placed under the water)
- 2) I was buried with Christ (symbolized by being under the water)
- 3) I was raised again with Christ, and now I have new life in Him (symbolized by being taken out of the water)

Romans 6:3-4 (Scripture 6) affirms this symbolism.

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

3) What do we need to be baptized?

1. To believe: As was already indicated in Acts 8:37 -38, everything we do requires faith.

In the Bible we have other examples of people who believed in Jesus.

For all of them, baptism was preceded by faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:41,16:33,18:8 (Scripture 7a, 7b, 7c)

Scripture 7a: Acts 2:41

⁴¹ Then those who ^[a]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Scripture 7b: Acts 16:33

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized.

Scripture 7c: Acts 18:8

⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

2. To repent: The word “repentance” comes from the Greek word “metanoeo.”

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It means to change your mind or purpose.

In the New Testament, it always entails a change for the better.

Water baptism requires repentance, dying to the desires of the flesh, bad habits, and those things which seem good to me but are bad to God's eyes.

When Peter preached his first sermón, the people asked him, What should we do?

He responds in **Acts 2:38 (Scripture 8)**.

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

His answer lets us see that if you want to be baptized, you must go through repentance first; that is, a change of mind and purpose that reflect that Jesus Christ is the person who governs our lives now.

The need for such a change is also indicated in passages like **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (Scripture 9)** and **Revelation 21:7-8 (Scripture 10)**.

Scripture 9: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor ^[a]homosexuals, nor ^[b]sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were ^[c]sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Scripture 10: Revelation 21:7-8

⁷ He who overcomes ^[a]shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, ^[b]unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Water baptism will not make you perfect because only God is

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perfect.

1 Juan 1.8-10 (Scripture 11).

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

However, the repentance that accompanies water baptism should symbolize that you have decided to leave sin behind as much as possible and AT LEAST you have decided to exclude from your life all of the most serious sins (already described in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** and **Revelation 21:7-8** and also described in **Galatians 5:19-21 [Scripture 12]**) from your life.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: ^[a]adultery, ^[b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, ^[c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

4) The Blessings of Water Baptism: It is because of all of this that we should be baptized.

A. When you get baptized from the heart, God cleanses you spiritually.
Acts 22:16 (Scripture 13)

¹⁶ And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

B. Even though water baptism does not save you, **Colossians 2:11-12 (Scripture 14)** explains that water baptism helps us to leave sin behind by reducing the influence of our flesh (our natural tendency to want to sin) over us.

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body

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[a] of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

C. Baptism symbolizes that we have received in the spirit realm a new lifestyle that is pleasing to God. Since baptism indicates that we have resurrected with Jesus Christ for that new life, our life can be even more blessed by God.

Matthew 3:13-17 (Scripture 15)

D. Jesus Christ saw the Holy Spirit come on Him when He was baptized in water. Likewise, baptism will open our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit more. In this way, there will be even greater support on the part of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and we can count on His direction even more.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and [a] He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

E. The same way in which God spoke of Jesus Christ as being His beloved son, when we take the step of baptism, God Himself confirms us AGAIN as His children. We become his beloved even more, and we please Him upon doing His will.

F. Passages like **Isaiah 59:2 (Scripture 16)** indicate to us that sin separates us from God.
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;

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And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that He will not hear.

Thus, when we repent, we have access to the Presence of God.

G. When we get baptized, we not only obtain the blessings of God, but we also are confessing publicly our faith in Him.

***Today I felt especially strongly the following:

We don't know when the last day of our life will be and we don't know when the Rapture of the church will be...

We don't know when this earthly life will end...

These three young girls are getting themselves ready, as all of us should...

Scripture 17: Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of ^[f]heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what ^[g]hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what ^[h]hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Scripture 18: Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no

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oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ “And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom ^[a] is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour ^[b] in which the Son of Man is coming.

1. Part of this material was adapted from "The Doctrine of Water Baptism" by Al Horta.

2. The majority of the rest of this material was adapted from the chapter on baptism in *Afirmando Mis Pasos (Affirming My Steps)* by Claudia de Fajardo.