

— OUTLINE —

I. Every born-again believer should be baptized in water.

- A. This isn't in order to be saved but rather because they've been saved.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:3-4

- B. Water baptism is an act of obedience to God's Word, symbolizing your baptism into the body of Christ.

- C. **“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”** (Eph. 4:4-6).

- D. You became a part of every believer who has ever believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

- E. God's Word commands you to be baptized in water.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

MARK 16:15-16

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

MATTHEW 28:19

- F. Numerous examples from the book of Acts show how the early church spread the Gospel and obeyed this command.

- G. The Bible makes it very clear that faith in Jesus is a prerequisite to water baptism (Acts 8:36-37)—you must believe first and then be baptized.

II. Although water baptism is an important first step in the Christian life, it's not required for salvation.

- A. Those who teach that water baptism is necessary to obtain your salvation are basing this on a misinterpretation of Acts 2:38, which says, **“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.”**

- B. Some say this “proves” you must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

- C. The key to understanding this verse is the word “**for**”: *For* often means “in order to obtain” but can also be “as a result of; because of; since.”
 - D. This verse says to repent, which means to put your faith in the Lord, and then to prove your faith in Him—as a result of being born again, because you’ve been born again, since you’ve been born again—by being water baptized.
 - E. Those who believe that water baptism is required for salvation also teach that you must live in a system of religious works whereby you earn salvation by personal holiness, and this is contrary to what the Word of God teaches.
 - F. Water baptism symbolized the salvation they had already received.
- III. Once you are born again and water baptized, your very next step should be to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.
- A. God doesn’t intend for you to live for Him on your own; He wants to live through you by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit!
 - B. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

LUKE 3:21-22

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 4:18-19

- C. If the Son of God Himself needed the Holy Spirit, how much more do you?
- D. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to all who ask in faith:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

LUKE 11:10-13
- E. Both the Holy Spirit and water baptisms are clearly commanded in the Scriptures.
- F. The Lord will lead you into these two acts of faith and obedience as soon as you are born again.
- G. Both actions release tremendous benefits into your spiritual life!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Every born-again Christian should be baptized...
 - A. In water
 - B. In soy sauce
 - C. Into the church
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. Are you baptized in order to be saved?

3. What are two passages of Scripture that command you to be baptized in water?

4. True or false: Faith in Jesus is a prerequisite to water baptism.

5. Is water baptism required for salvation?

6. The teaching that water baptism is necessary to obtain salvation is based on what?

7. What is the next step after being born again and baptized in water?

8. True or false: God intended for you to live for Him completely on your own.

9. The Lord will lead you into these two acts of _____ and _____ as soon as you are born again.

10. What will these actions do for you?

— SCRIPTURES —

ROMANS 6:3-4

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; [5] One Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

MARK 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

MATTHEW 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and 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 8:36-37

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? [37] 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.

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 10:44-48

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. [45] And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, [47] 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.

JOHN 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

LUKE 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, [22] And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 11:10-13

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [11] If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?