

THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.

BAPTISM

The Greek word for "baptize" is "baptizo" = to dip, to plunge, to immerse".

1. Have you been baptized any time in your life? Yes No
 2. How old were you at the time of your baptism? _____
 3. Why did you get baptized? _____
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Here' a crazy story for you. There is no English word for "baptize". Since the word means "to immerse", and since the Church of England baptized by sprinkling, the translators did not want to "tick off" the church; so, they just changed the Greek word "baptizo" into "baptize".

BAPTISM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Leviticus 16:4 When Aaron the High Priest went into the "Holy Place" in the Tabernacle, before he puts on is holy priestly garments. He shall wash his body in water; then, he puts the priestly clothes on.

4. The high priest did this to keep himself clean & pure as he serve
A holy God in the tabernacle. Yes No

Since the high priest does this to remind the people that God expects holiness when they worship Him, those who are baptized today are making a similar statement that God still requires holiness (which is granted us by a blood sacrifice for our sin).

5. It appears that there was no baptism as we know it in the Old Testament, but there was concern for purity in their lives before God. Yes No

BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptizer came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 3:3 For this man is he who was spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight."

Matthew 3:4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:5 Then the people of Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan River went out to him, and were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6. Who is doing the baptizing as the New Testament opens?

7. What was his message?

8. Who predicted his ministry 700 years earlier? _____

9. How was he dressed? _____

10. What did he eat? _____

11. What did the Prophet Isaiah say that John the Baptizer's ministry would be?

12. Who came to hear him? _____

13. What did the people do when they went? _____

14. What did John do for them? _____

Ok, physically speaking, they walked out there, they listened to him preach, they confessed their sins; they got baptized; now, they're wet; they eventually went home.

15. What happened in their hearts? How were they different?

Let's review our Christian terms for what's going on here. Today, we use words like: "I got saved", "I was born again", "I became a Christian", "I now have forgiveness of sins and eternal life", "I am a believer", "I accepted Christ as my personal Savior".

*Mark 1:4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
John 1:25 And they asked John, "Why do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
John 1:26 John answered, I baptize with water, but there stands One coming Who is greater than I."
John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. This is the One Who comes after Me Who is greater than I".
Matthew 21:25 Jesus said, "The baptism of John - where was it from? From heaven or from men?"*

16. Why was John baptizing people? What did they want them to do?

17. Did John take the credit for being becoming believers? Yes No

18. Did John save the people from their sins? Yes No

19. Did being baptized by John save those people from sin? Yes No

20. Was John just a "nut" or was he sent from God? Yes No

21. Who is the One Who takes away the sins of the world? _____



The baptizing did not take away anybody's sins.

John the Baptizer did not take away anybody's sins.

The water in the river did not take away anybody's sins.

BEING BAPTIZED DOES NOT SAVE US FROM OUR SINS. IT NEVER HAS.

a. Those people, in their heart, wanted a change in their lives.

b. Those people, in their heart, came to confess their sins.

c. Those people, in their heart, stood in that water & repented of sin.

d. Those people, in their heart, were baptized to say "I choose God".

e. Those people, in their heart, allowed everyone to see their decision.

**THERE WAS NO DOUBT - THE BAPTISM MEANT "I AM A BELIEVER NOW".
THE BAPTISM & BECOMING A BELIEVER HAPPENED AT THE SAME TIME.**

They made that decision to follow God & everybody knew it. (This is called the "Baptism of Repentance".

Romans 6:3 Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death?
Romans 6:4 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.

22. Going down in the water is a symbol of: Baptism into death or

Newness of life

23. Coming up out of the water is a symbol of: Baptism into death or

Newness of life

What a beautiful picture.

a. Jesus died for our sins - We went down into the water.

b. Jesus rose from the dead - We came up out of the water.

After Jesus came & began preaching & after the Church began to grow, the "believing" came before the "baptizing".

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

24. What decision is listed first? _____

25. What decision is second? _____

Notice there are only two decisions here: 1) Repent 2) Be baptized

a. Repent - You decided to accept Christ's forgiveness of sins.

b. Baptize - You demonstrated to all that you made that decision.

What did you get for making this decision: 1) Forgiveness 2) Holy Spirit

At the moment you accepted Christ, you received total forgiveness for all sins.

At the moment you accepted Christ, you received all of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons through faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:28 There is no distinction between Jew & Gentile, between slave & free, between male & female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

26. We are believers through faith in Christ. If we never got

baptized, would we still be believers who are going to heaven? Yes No

Notice the words: "faith in Jesus Christ"

"baptized into Christ"

"have put on Christ"

"one in Christ"

"Baptized in Christ" is another way to say "I am a believer now". It has nothing to do with the river water. I was baptized (placed in the water & immersed totally). I am baptized into Christ (placed into the Body of Christ - totally in.)

27.Examples of New Testament Baptisms - Match the verse & example

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|-----------------|-------|------------------------|
| a. Mark 1:9 | _____ | The Apostle Paul |
| b. Acts 22:16 | _____ | The Ethiopian Official |
| c. Acts 8:12 | _____ | Jesus Christ |
| d. Acts 8:36,38 | _____ | Simon (Not Peter) |

Acts 1:5 *Jesus told the disciples, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but My Father & I baptize with the Holy Spirit ..."*

28.The baptism of John & the baptism of the Holy Spirit mean the same thing; in both cases someone became a believer. ___Yes ___No

The "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" = the Holy Spirit entered your life at the moment you accepted Christ as your Savior. This only happens once. When you got saved, you got all the Holy Spirit you are ever going to get.

Here's the catch.

*Because we are sinful and disobedient, we hold back & do not let the Holy Spirit have freedom to work in our lives. **We have all of Him; He hasn't got all of us.***

*When you say, "Lord, take control of my life today & you let Him - we call that **"BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT"**. That happens many times in our lives.*

THANK GOD IT DOES!!

A concluding thought

- Being baptized is commanded by the Lord. You should consider it.*
- Not being baptized does not take away your salvation.*
- Standing in that water tells everyone that you are Christian.*
- Standing in front of the people tells them that you are serious.*
- You are asking the other believers for their help & encouragement.*
- You are telling God in front of everybody that **YOU LOVE HIM.***

29.If you are not baptized, will you pray & consider it? ___Yes ___No

30.If you have been baptized, are you glad you did? ___Yes ___No

Remember! *Baptism does not wash away your sins.*

Baptism is a statement that your sins have been washed away.