

# UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM

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This document the recording with the same title that can be used for preparation for Water Baptism.

## PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

### A. DEFINITIONS

- 1) **ORDINANCE** = A commanded celebration or custom, with a spiritual symbolic meaning and the potential to impart grace.
- 2) **BAPTIZO** = Greek word meaning to dip. The word was used to indicate the dipping for the dyeing of a garment and the dipping of a vessel to draw a liquid. It was transliterated in English into Baptize, meaning the process including three phases:
  - a. Total immersion
  - b. Submersion and
  - c. Emersion.

**TOTAL IMMERSION IS REQUIRED BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY**

### B. FIVE BAPTISMS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- 1) **BAPTISM OF JOHN, OF REPENTANCE** MK.1:4  
A preparation for Jesus' coming Lk.3:3-7
- 2) **BAPTISM INTO THE BODY, AT REGENERATION** 1Cor.12:12-13
- 3) **WATER BAPTISM, INTO JESUS** Act.2:38
- 4) **HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM, OF POWER** Act.1:5-8
- 5) **BAPTISM OF FIRE, PURIFICATION** Lk.3:16-17

We will discuss 2, 3 and 4, and concentrate on 3.

These three Baptisms can occur almost simultaneously when the conditions are right. [Acts 19:4-6]

### C. THE COMPONENTS OF BAPTISMS

1. **BAPTIZING ELEMENT**, what one is baptized into
2. **CONDITIONS OF THE PERSON BAPTIZED**
3. **THE BAPTIZER**, who performs the baptism
4. **THE RESULT**, in spirit, soul and body

ELEMENT	CONDITION	BAPTIZER	RESULT	REF.
Body	Repentance + Faith	Holy Spirit	New Birth	1Cor.12:13
Water	New Birth	Man	Separation	Mt.28:19
Holy Spirit	New Birth	Jesus	Power Gifts	Acts 1:8, 2:4

### D. THE THREE WITNESSES ARE NEEDED

1Jn.5:7-8 These witnesses are needed for the ongoing process of Salvation to be conformed to the image of Jesus (ROM.8:29).

- a) **THE BLOOD FOR REGENERATION** Heb.9:22, 1Pet.1:18-19, 1Jn.1:7
- b) **THE WATER FOR SALVATION** Eph.5:26, 1Pet.3:21
- c) **THE SPIRIT FOR POWER** Rom.8:9-16

These witnesses were present in the Old Testament as are present also in the New Testament. For example, in the preparation of the priests to minister. Three steps were involved:

- a) Sacrifice at the altar Ex.40:6,29.
- b) Washing in the Laver Ex.40:12,30-33
- c) Anointing with oil Ex.40:13-15

## **E. BAPTISM INTO THE BODY PRECEDES WATER BAPTISM**

It involves two aspects:

### **1. BEING BORN AGAIN**

It takes place when we repent, that is confess our sins and turn from going our way, appropriate the atoning work of the cross and decide to submit to the Lordship of Jesus. Col.1:13

### **2 BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF GOD**

It implies complete immersion in the Body of Christ. 1Cor.12:12-13

You have taken your place in the Body of Christ. 1Cor.12:18-19

True fellowship in the Body is essential, you should be part of a local Body, not an "independent" Christian, otherwise you are not submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom.12:4-5

## **PART 2 – THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM**

### **A. MEANING OF BAPTISM Rom.6:1-14, Col.2:10-14**

Identification with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

#### **1) HIS DEATH IS OUR DEATH -**

Dying to the desires of the flesh, and to sin. In faith we submit our will to God. Rom.6:3, Gal.2:20

Consider Yourself dead to sin. As we go to Baptism, we make a solemn PLEDGE, promise or agreement with God. 1Pet.3:21(NIV)

It is our Gethsemane, "Not our will but His", A CONSCIOUS CHOICE, DECISION, WITNESS.

#### **2) HIS BURIAL IS OUR BURIAL -**

This implies complete separation from the world, circumcision of the flesh and dedication unto God.

Rom.6:4, Rom.6:11,13

Action must accompany faith. Jam.2:20-22

It is our cross, A CONTINUOUS IMPLEMENTATION

#### **3) HIS RESURRECTION IS OUR RESURRECTION -**

Death is required before resurrection.

We are raised through Faith Col.2:12 RECEIVING FROM GOD.

We start walking in newness of life Rom.6:5, 2Cor.5:17, Gal.6:15

God living in us 2Cor.6:15-16

**Our Easter Sunday, Resurrection comes after death, it is A GLORIOUS EXPERIENCE OF POWER AND VICTORY**

### **B. RESULTS OF BAPTISM ROM.6:17-18,22**

The result of water baptism is Resurrection Power to overcome sin.

### **C. TYPES AND SHADOWS OF BAPTISM**

In the Old Testament the concepts of Baptism were already expressed, but in a symbolic way through types and shadows.

1) CIRCUMCISION Deut.30:6

2) ISRAEL EXPERIENCE AT THE RED SEA. 1Cor.10:1-2

3) CROSSING OF JORDAN Josh.5:2-9

4) HEALING OF NAAMAN 2Kin.5:9-14

## **PART 3 – QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM**

### **A. WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

1) **A DECISION** - You must make a choice.

2) **A PLEDGE** (1Pet.3:21NIV) - You make a promise to walk as God demands.

3) **A COVENANT** (Col.2:11-12) The stripping of the flesh, brings God's partnership with you.

4) **A PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF OUR POSITION**, we perceive and understand. This is an external (PUBLIC)

witness of an internal position. 1Jn.5:7-8

- 5) **AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE** Mt.28:18-20, Mt.7:21, we agree.
- 6) **AN ACT OF FAITH**, by the act of baptism our faith is released. Jam.2:26 Faith to walk as we are called.
- 7) **AN APPROPRIATION OF RESURRECTION POWER**, we receive. 1Pet.3:21

## **B. WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT**

### **1) NOT A MAGIC CEREMONY**

There is no power in just physically going through the formula.

### **2) NOT A SAVING ACT**

You can go to heaven if you are not baptized.

You must be born again before you can be baptized.

To be Born Again you must accept in faith Jesus' death for your sins.

### **3) NOT A CHURCH JOINING CEREMONY**

This is just man's tradition in some denominations.

Jesus did not have to join the church.

### **4) NOT JUST A SYMBOLIC ACT**

This is lack of understanding of spiritual activities.

Jesus did not command us to do something without value.

## **C. WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?**

**To have a baptism that is meaningful and effective in imparting you the grace you should receive, some conditions must be met.**

### **1. SIN**

You must be a believer Act.8:12, 30-38, 16:30-38

You must not be living in sin. That is you must have turned away from your sins and be submitted to the Lord.

### **2. UNDERSTANDING**

You must fully understand the meaning, the implications and what you can expect to receive. Act.8:30-38

### **3. CHOICE**

You must be aware of the choice you make. That is you must have enough experience in life to know the things you chose to do and those you will not do. (Deut.30:19) Age of accountability.

***If you meet these conditions you can be baptized!***

**Water baptism is a contract or covenant that you are making with God. By faith this contract actually breaks the power of sin. But to do it, you must be in contractual age (at least 17-18 yrs) because this requires that you have mental consciousness, maturity and moral accountability.**

## **D. CAN ONE BE BAPTIZED A SECOND TIME?**

**Often people ask, when I was Baptized, I really did not know what I was doing. Can I be baptized a second time? In Act.19:3-5 these disciples who met with Paul were baptized a second time, because they had a new understanding of the meaning of Baptism.**

## **E. WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?**

### **1. IT IS A COMMANDMENT 1Jn.5:3**

1) Jesus commanded it Mk.16:16 Mt.28:19,20

2) The Apostles commanded it Act.2:38,41 8:12,13,36

### **2. TO FOLLOW JESUS EXAMPLE Lk.3:21**

### **3. IT IS A GRACE GIVING EXPERIENCE**

It establishes a **COVENANT** between you and God Col.2:11-12

## **PART 4 – HOW TO BE BAPTIZED**

**We are made of Body, Soul and Spirit and in Baptism all our parts are involved.**

### **A. BODY - Our Physical Form**

1) The minister asks for a public confession of your faith in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, saying:

***"Do you believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and hearth, and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten***

**Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was crucified and died on the cross in your place for the remission of your sins?"**

(Answer: "I Do!")

**"Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?"**

(Answer: "I Do!")

**"Do you renounce to the Devil and all his works, the glory of the world and the carnal desires of the flesh?"**

(Answer: "I Do!").

3) The minister immerses you completely under water, then pulls you out, while saying:

**"Upon your public confession of Jesus as your Savior and Lord, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen."**

(Ladies should cross their arms on their chest to provide an adequate holding posture.)

The controversy about the formula to use in Baptism is futile. **The baptism in the Name of Jesus, and the one based on the Trinity are equivalent. See the following parallel:**

<b>LORD</b>	<b>- JESUS</b>	<b>- CHRIST</b>
<b>FATHER</b>	<b>- SON</b>	<b>- HOLY SPIRIT</b>

The key is understanding what is taking place.

## **B. SOUL - Our Mind and Emotions**

**The way your soul participates:**

- 1) **Understanding** - We know what it means and what it should produce in us, so that we can exercise our faith.
- 2) **Agreement** - We have our will and our desire in agreement with God's. He can work in us with his power.
- 3) **Boldness** - We are not under bondages of men or demons. When we confess before men, Jesus confesses us before the Father. Mt.10:32 shows us the importance of boldness, and the breakthrough in boldness.
- 4) **Belief** - Accept God's interpretation of baptism
- 5) Prepare by **Meditating** on scriptures on Baptism.
- 6) While being baptized, **realize and visualize what is spiritually taking place**. Your death and burial to the flesh and your resurrection to new life.

## **C. SPIRIT - Our Spirit and impact on our New Reality**

**1) The operation of our Faith -**

Point in time from which you exercise your faith. Believe in your heart that what is described in Rom.6 is taking place. Your Action is releasing your faith. (Heb.11:6, 11:1)

**2) The manifestation of new Freedom -**

Act.2:38 – Here the word REMISSION = APHESIS (Greek) = Releases from bondage of sin, Word used for slaves.

**3) The experience of our Victory - (Gal.2:20)**

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