

Baptism in the Bible

Romans 6:3-4

What is Baptism?

- ▶ Before the New Testament age, baptism may be defined as an act of **association** or **identification** with someone, some group, some event, or some message. (literally means washing or fully wet)
- ▶ All the baptism was self-administered until **John the Baptist** (before any holy event)
- ▶ John's baptism associated his followers with His message of repentance & righteousness (Matt 3:2)
- ▶ James and John was asked to **identify themselves** with **Christ's suffering** (Mark 10:38-39)



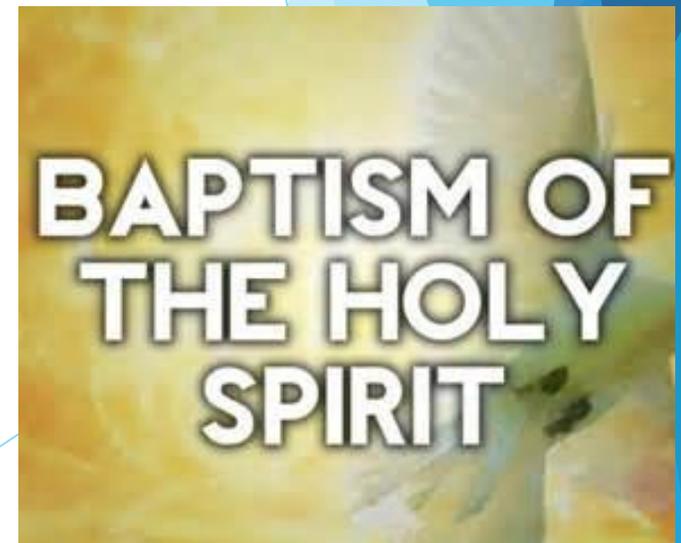
Baptism as Identification

- ▶ In Romans, Paul wanted us to identify ourselves with the **new life in Christ** (Rom 6:1-11)
- ▶ All together, baptism is a symbol of **identification**
- ▶ Nowhere in the Bible teaches baptism as a “ticket” to heaven (i.e. sacrament) Salvation is by **faith in Christ alone** (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- ▶ The ordinance of baptism is a **symbol** of the believer’s **identification with Christ in burial and resurrection** (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21)



3 Kinds of Baptism in the NT

- ▶ The Baptism by **fire** (Matt. 13:40: 2 Thes. 1:7-9; 2 Peter 3:7-11, Rev. 20:11) The **burning of the old world** before the New Heaven and the New Earth
- ▶ The Baptism of the **Holy Spirit** (John 14:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:19; 12:13; Titus 3:5) The **regeneration** of the Holy Spirit for all believers to a new life in Christ at the moment of conversion.



Baptism of Water

- ▶ **Christ** set an example (Matthew 3:12-15)
- ▶ This is a part of our **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:19-20)
- ▶ It becomes one of the two ordinances in the church
- ▶ The Church practice it from the beginning (Acts 2:38)
- ▶ (Acts 8:26-38) Baptism should follow salvation, not precede it.
- ▶ Baptism is a picture of Christ suffering, death, and resurrection, and its practice should correspond as nearly as possible with what is **symbolized**. (Rom 6:3-4)



How Baptism should be practiced?

- ▶ Traditionally, there are **sprinkling**, **pouring** (affusion), and **immersion**
- ▶ The word *baptizo* itself means either fully washed or fully wet
- ▶ (Rom. 6:1-5) Since baptism is the **picture** of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, **immersion** fits better than sprinkling or pouring



How Baptism should be practiced

- ▶ The early church gave pouring as an exception to immersion in case of **sickness**, some called it “clinical baptism”
- ▶ Therefore, biblically speaking, immersion is **preferred**, but not **commanded**. What’s more important is not the method, rather the **message of baptism** (identification with Christ, Rom. 6:3-4)



What baptism means in our daily lives

- ▶ (Rom. 6:1-11) Are you **continue** in your sin? (v.1-2)
- ▶ Are you daily **baptized** into Christ's death? (v.3) as in **bury** our old self to where it belongs (v.4) and **nail** it on the cross (v.6)
- ▶ You are **NOT** a **slave** to your old self (v.6-7) You are **FREE**
- ▶ Today you can **choose** to live with God and live to God (v.8-10)
- ▶ (v.11) "Consider" It is a choice of the mind, and you must **consider today**

