

The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

Day 11: The Doctrine of Baptisms

We have been studying the six fundamental doctrines of Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3. Today we will study the third doctrine listed: the doctrine of baptisms.

There are only two baptisms referred to in the New Testament in relationship to salvation: The baptism of the Holy Ghost and the baptism of water. Water and Spirit baptism constitute the spiritual new birth of a Christian.

1. The gift of the Holy Ghost referred to as a “baptism” in the following scriptures:
 - a. John 1:33 “And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which _____ with the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. In Luke 3:16 we again read of John the Baptist: “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water, but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; he shall _____ you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.”
 - c. Jesus reminded his disciples of what John has said about him just before His ascension in Acts 1:5 when he said: “For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be _____ with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”
 - d. Apostle Peter referred to Jesus’ statement above in Acts 11:16: “Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be _____ with the Holy Ghost.”
2. Water Baptism is referred to as “baptism” in the following scriptures:
 - a. Acts 8:36 “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 _____?”
 - b. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and _____ away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
3. Water Baptism is taught in the New Testament as being necessary to salvation in the following scriptures:
 - a. Mark 16:16 Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be _____ ...” Jesus included baptism as an element of salvation.

- b. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized _____ one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Note, baptism in the scriptures was always administered “in the name of Jesus Christ”. Peter commanded that everyone be baptized in Jesus’ name: he would not have commanded baptism if it was not essential.
- c. Acts 10:44-48 “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them which heard the word. 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. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God, then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he _____ them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...” Again, the apostle Peter commanded the gentiles to be baptized “in the name of the Lord.” (See also Acts 8:16; Acts 19:5; and 1 Corinthians 1:13)
4. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is shown to be necessary to salvation in the following scriptures:
- a. Romans 8:9-11 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also _____ your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” The Spirit is given to resurrect the Christian just as it resurrected Jesus from the dead.
- b. 1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we _____ baptized into one body: whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” Everyone is baptized into the body of Christ when they receive the Spirit.
5. There is one “Doctrine of Baptism”; however, there are two baptisms: the baptism of the water and the baptism of the Spirit. This is called by Jesus the birth of the water and of the Spirit:
- a. John 3:1-5 “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him, Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old?’ Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered,

‘Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of the _____ and of the _____, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ Jesus proclaimed that only those who were born of the water and of the spirit would enter the kingdom of God

When the Apostle Peter was asked regarding salvation on the day of Pentecost:

- “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” he answered emphatically in Acts 2:38: “Repent, and be _____ every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the _____.” Notice that Peter commanded baptism in water; and promised that if they repented and were baptized they would receive the Holy Ghost (Spirit).
- In Acts 8:12-16 when the Samaritans believed Phillip’s preaching: “they were _____, both men and women ...” Then “when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the _____:” The apostles were so emphatic that everyone should receive the Spirit that they sent Peter and John to pray for the baptized Samaritan believers. Why was it critically important that the apostles come to Samaria and pray for the Samaritan believers to receive the Spirit? Because: they had been born of the water but yet needed the birth of the Spirit.
- In Acts 10:44-48 when Peter was preaching to the Gentiles: “The Holy Ghost fell on all of them which heard the word. 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 _____. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid _____, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...” Notice, the Gentiles had been born of the Spirit so Apostle Peter commanded them to be baptized in water.
- In Acts 19:1-6 when Paul met twelve disciples of John, he asked them two questions:
 - 1) Have ye received the _____ since ye believed? They answered: “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” His second question was:

- 2) “Unto what then were ye baptized?”
- The Apostle Paul wanted to know whether they had been born of the water and Spirit! When he discovered they had only been baptized in the water by John the Baptist, he re-baptized (water) them in the name of Jesus. “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” They received the Spirit! The believers from Ephesus now had been born of the water and of the Spirit. Jesus explained it well to Nicodemus: **All** must be born of the water and of the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God.

Discussion:

- 1. Why do you think that the birth of the Spirit is referred to as a “baptism”?**
- 2. Why must a believer be baptized in water? What scriptures would you use to explain this to a new believer?**
- 3. Why must a believer be baptized in the Spirit? What scriptures would you use to explain this?**
- 4. Tell of your birth of water and Spirit. Did you feel new inside?**