



QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

TOPIC : Questions about Baptism

Sermon audio:

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TIME TO PONDER:

This week we are going to be answering some of the frequently asked questions about baptism. With more and more people being baptised it's time to make sure we know beyond a shadow of a doubt why baptism is

so important. Let's begin with the first question:

Do you have to be baptised to receive the Holy Spirit ?

Acts 2:38

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The answer is YES! But notice:

"be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ"

You have to be baptised into the Name of Jesus - that is a spiritual baptism, this

happens when you surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus.

Do you have to be baptised to be saved?

Answer: Yes!

Mark 16:16

16 Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

But what about the thief on the Cross?

Luke 23:43

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

So was the thief baptised? YES - in the Name of Jesus but not water!

So why do you need to be baptised to be saved and receive the Holy Spirit?

Romans 6:3-5

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

You see how baptism UNITES us with Christ.

- United to his death - his death becomes your death for sin.
- To his burial - his burial becomes your burial to the old life.
- To his resurrection - becomes your resurrection to new life.

Question1: Have you been spiritually baptised? If so can you share a testimony with the group as to how your life changed afterwards.

BIG IDEA: So unless you are united or baptised into the Name of Jesus your sins are not paid for, you are still your old self and you have not received resurrection life.

TIME TO REFLECT:

So why should we then be baptised in water?

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When you put your faith in Jesus and show that faith by repenting of your sin and making Jesus Lord of your life, you are baptised into the Name of Jesus. When you do this you are born again and the Holy Spirit fills you, and you receive the Holy Spirit and power to be a witness.

The first step of being a witness for Jesus is public baptism. It is a witness to the spiritual forces of heaven and a witness to your friends and family.

So baptism is not just water - it is primarily spiritual - into the Name of Jesus. It is also not just an event but part of the DISCIPLESHIP process.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

BIG IDEA: Baptism is the discipleship process of immersing people into the nature and character of the Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Question 2: How is your baptism into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit going? Which one of the Trinity (the Father , Son and

Holy Spirit) do you need to grow in the knowledge and nature of, to be more immersed into?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

QUESTION: Is baptism into the Name of Jesus the same as Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

NO

BIG IDEA: You choose to be baptised into Jesus. Jesus chooses to baptise you into the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16

16 John answered them all, "I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful

than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

It seems that the more we surrender in baptism into Jesus the more He baptises us in the Holy Spirit and power.

So the best way to pursue a greater baptism in the Holy Spirit is to pursue a deeper baptism in Jesus!

Acts 8:15-17

15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

God can also use people to help you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

So baptism in the Holy Spirit requires baptism into the Name of Jesus and faith for Jesus to baptise you in the Holy Spirit. As can be seen in the passage below.

Acts 19:1-6

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Question 3: Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit? Were there any outward signs of this baptism?

ACTION STEP

Hopefully this has answered some of your questions. If you have not been baptised in water - why not today?

If you are desiring a greater baptism in the Holy Spirit then let us lay our hands on you and trust that Jesus will light that fire.

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