

Baptism – the powerful meaning of being baptized.



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *baptism, immersion, baptize, baptisms, baptism of the Holy Spirit, baptism of fire, John the Baptist, laying on of hands, rebaptism, child baptism.*

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Summary: *Baptism. Are you still excited when you think of your own baptism? Or are you seeking baptism? Are you putting off your baptism? WHY? What does baptism mean? Is baptism all that important? Were you truly baptized correctly? Who can baptize others? Who can lay hands on others for the Holy Spirit? Should you ever consider being RE-baptized? Should children or young teens be baptized? What is the meaning behind baptism? Even if you were baptized decades ago, you'll learn a lot from this teaching.*

Hello everyone. Quite a few are coming to baptism lately – and that is so exciting! Never ever let a baptism, especially your own baptism, be anything but exciting, because when that person comes up out of the water and then has hands laid on him or her – and God's Presence/Spirit – comes into him/her, you then have a new brother or sister in the Lord. Hallelujah! It's exciting. Don't let yourself lose your own excitement for being a baptized member of the body of Christ himself. It's time to rekindle the fire in our bellies. *I recommend you study the notes as well as listen to the video because the notes are not a true 100% word-for-word account, and vice versa.*

(I recount a recent exciting baptism of a young lady in a river. Assisted by her dad.)

I'm updating the sermons we have on baptisms as I'm hoping we FEEL more excitement about having been baptized – even if long ago. So *even if you've "been in the church" for 30 years or more, this will be an excellent review for everyone.* It certainly was a good review for ME, preparing this! Anyone **contemplating** baptism for SURE should study these notes to help you better understand the topic.

So welcome everyone to Light on the Rock, where God the Father is MOST HIGH and Jesus or Yeshua the Messiah is our beloved Savior and King and where we are committed to understand and live by the holy Bible. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of LOTR (Light on the Rock.org) **where I want to teach what the**

Bible actually says on every topic, not just what we've come to accept, as taught in your church, unless it squares 100% with the Bible.

By the way, we're **working to make it easier for you to leave comments** on our website for the sermons and blogs. It really helps us when people leave comments. If you have difficulty, please let me know. We're also working to have a list of all the blogs and audio and video sermons.

Back to the topic! If you know people thinking of baptism, please refer them to this site and to this specific sermon.

We'll cover A LOT TODAY including, but not limited to:

- **WHEN should you be baptized? At what age? Should babies, or children/teens be baptized?**
- Is baptism *required* for salvation?
- **And what does it mean to be baptized?** Do you have to be immersed in water or is sprinkling like the Catholics do, OK? What does the IMMERSION depict?
- And going forward, I want to explain why I baptize into the name that every example in the book of Acts shows us - - into Jesus Christ's name, and not what Matthew 28:19 seems to say ("into the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit"). I'll explain.

- **Does someone have to be an ordained minister to baptize someone?** Can a regular unordained church member baptize others? And how about Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit? Is that to be done only by ordained ministers?
- WHY does **Hebrews 6:2**, in listing the basic doctrines of the church, put it as a plural word – "Baptisms" – when Eph 4:5 talks about "ONE baptism".
- Should anyone ever be **RE-Baptized**? There is strong Biblical precedent for it.

Are you ready to dive into this? How important is baptism in the New Covenant?

We see that Peter on the day of Pentecost told the audience to repent and *be baptized* for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38).

Our own Lord and Master Yeshua/Jesus the Messiah said this earlier:

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Repentance, with believing and publicly confessing that belief in our Messiah come first, then baptism is the outward sign/ritual of what's happened already in our hearts.

MEANING OF "BAPTISM" is to IMMERSE, submerge into water

What does "baptize" mean? To "baptize" is from the *Greek word "baptizo"* meaning literally "to immerse".

We transliterated the Greek "baptizo" into English "baptize" but the Greek definitely means 'TO IMMERSE'. Immerse in water. We're told in **John 3:23** that John the baptizer did his baptizing in the Jordan "for there was much water there". According to the Bible accounts, baptizing had nothing to do with just sprinkling water, as Catholics do to newborn infants. That's not immersion.

Where were the 3,000 baptized on Pentecost? Probably in the numerous "*mikvehs*" -- pools for ritual cleansing, surrounding the temple complex. But it's always by immersion. One had to be washed ritually before they could enter the temple complex.

Mark 1:9-11 NIV

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and **was baptized by John in the Jordan**. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Literal Standard Version: ' was *immersed* by John in the Jordan"

Acts 8:38-39 Philip baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch.

"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized [immersed] him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

So we could rightfully interchange "baptism" and "immersion". They mean the same.

Burial and resurrection into Christ's death and resurrection

Have **you** been correctly and completely immersed into water, **in Jesus' name**, -- because that is what baptism is? It pictures our complete and total burial of our old life as well as picturing being immersed into Christ's death - **not just ours but also HIS death. Are you very aware of that?**

And then, **coming back out of the water**, pictures our resurrection with Christ at HIS resurrection as well -- putting us into HIS Body, a new Creation IN Christ. That becomes especially the case once God sends His very own nature, His **spirit**

presence, into us. However, because we will still have the carnal human nature inside us as well, we will still have to fight temptation and sin after we are baptized.

Romans 6:1-6

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as **were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**

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.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

If we really understand what Paul wrote us, we will also better understand **Gal. 2:20-21** – when Paul said, “I no longer live...”.

Galatians 2:20-21

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

And our being raised up out of the water pictures the RISEN Christ now living in us.

Philippians 3:9-11: Paul exclaims that he wanted most of all to really come to *know* Jesus, AND the power of HIS resurrection. HIS resurrection, not Paul’s. It’s because the risen Christ is now our life (see Col. 3:3-4) that we have any chance of being in our own resurrection as perfect, immortal spirit beings at the last trump.

Philippians 3:8b-11

“... that I may **gain Christ** 9 **and be found in Him**, NOT having my OWN righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I **may know Him** and the **power of HIS resurrection**, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Colossians 3:3-4

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

ALL of that is pictured when we go under the water and are risen back up out of the water in Jesus name, hallelujah! SO YES, if you want to be baptized, don't put it off at all. I'm excited for those of you who want to be part of what God is doing in preparing a people for himself to help lay out the Kingdom of God's way.

Baptism is accepting God's calling, recognizing and acknowledging what you've been – a SINNER – and repenting as you truly CHANGE your life, as you GIVE UP ongoing sins as a way of life, and committing to marry the SON OF GOD.

BAPTISM is one of the SIX basic DOCTRINES

The order given to the six basic doctrines in *Hebrews 6:1-3* **actually lists the sequence of events leading to salvation.**

Hebrews 6:1-3

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection [can also be translated “maturity”] not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of **faith** toward God, **of the doctrine of baptisms**, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.”

Notice the sequence of steps we take to accepting God's calling in the order given in Hebrews 6. We all get one good calling. Did you see this as a sequence before?

- ** **repentance** from dead works. Turning back to God, becoming converted.
- ** **Faith** toward God – in HIS salvation, Christ as Savior, faith in HIS righteousness for us
- ** v. 2 – **baptisms** –plural, I'll explain as we go along; immersed into Christ too
- ** **laying on of hands** – for times of setting apart for holiness. For anointing for healing. Kings and High priest were ordained by laying on of hands. And we do it at baptism as we are being set-apart for God's holy use.
- ** Resurrection of the dead (they're not already in heaven or hell).
- ** Eternal judgment. That could be either very positive or negative.

All of this starts with **GOD Most High personally calling you to come to him**. You – not because *you're* so GOOD – but because HE is so gracious (**Titus 3:4-7**), HE makes that decision as **John 6:44** and other verses make clear. Not Jesus, not angels, not you – but GOD the Father personally said, “I want to call Sam, or Helen...” what

a high, high calling we have. I have a sermon on cherishing your calling as firstfruits. We become HEIRS of God, receiving a DOUBLE portion as firstfruits. Hallelujah!

John 6:44, 65

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day”

V. 65 “... can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Next, after water baptism, we then have an elder lay hands on our head and ask God to **give you the even MORE important BAPTISM at this point** -- being immersed by God’s very own divine Holy Spirit – his divine nature, power and presence *into the very body of Christ (2 Peter 1:2-4)*. We receive the very NATURE of God.

So there is the baptism of water upon repentance – into which the disciples and Christ himself were baptized by John the Baptist – and then what I believe is the MAIN baptism that both John and Christ referred to: the **IMMERSION BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit of God’s very own presence and nature**. Check out my sermons on “Who or what is the Holy Spirit”.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, **are one body, so also is Christ.**

13 **For BY one SPIRIT we were all baptized [immersed] INTO one body** — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Luke 3:15-17

Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not,

16 John answered, saying to all, "**I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; *but the chaff He will BURN with unquenchable fire.*"

This fire mentioned here burns UP the useless chaff. It is NOT the same as the tongues of fire of Holy Spirit in Acts 2. They were *not burned UP* by the tongues of fire. Nor is there any hint that those present in Acts 2 were seen as “chaff to be burned up”!

John the baptizer mentions three baptisms: baptism of water, baptism of the Holy Spirit and baptism of FIRE, but a fire that BURNS UP the chaff. We don't want THAT baptism of which John warned about.

This is why Hebrews 6:2 speaks of the doctrine of baptisms. Plural. There's water baptism and being IMMERSED/baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Remember Yeshua's words just before Pentecost:

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized [immersed] with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

CJB says "you will be immersed in the Ruach haKodesh" – Hebrew for Holy Spirit. And on Pentecost, they were filled with this gift of God's Holy Spirit!

Christ is that ONE BODY that we are immersed into – his very own body. We think of his "body" in a general sense, meaning the Church, and it is, but it's more than that. ("Body of Christ" is the church – Colossians 1:18; Eph 1:22-23).

But we also are immersed and injected into the very presence and body of Jesus himself. I now become a part of him and can say I am "IN HIM". This is so vital to grasp. Be noticing scriptures about being "in him" or "in Christ" or "in God". See Phil.3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21 for example, and 1 John 4:13.

And once you have the laying on of hands and receive the Holy Spirit, at that moment, we can say, "**I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine**" – Song of Songs 6:3a.

Don't lose your first love and excitement. **Our spirit joins with His Holy Spirit and we become ONE SPIRIT with Christ, as surely as Adam and Eve joined together and became one flesh.** So Paul reminds us all to stay clear of sexual sins of all types – fornication, adultery, lusting in one's heart – all of it! For sex makes you one flesh with the other person, he says, as it says about Adam and Eve – and "the two shall become one flesh". Then he says this, something very deep:

1 Corinthians 6:17

"But he who is joined to the Lord **is one spirit with Him.**"

Don't get so stuck on just doctrine so much that you forget you are **engaged to be married to the Son of God**, as Paul says:

2 Corinthians 11:2

“I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

DO you know who you are? Once you're baptized we must never forget who we are! We are **personally hand-picked by God Most High**, God the Father, to be among the first fruits of his calling (**John 6:44, 65**), with a much higher reward than those He will call after Christ's return. Most of the world have not been called yet. Don't ask me to explain how or why He picked YOU – or me – but He did.

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

But I know it's not because of my righteous works or abilities (please study **Titus 3:3-7**). 1 Cor. 1:26 says God chose the base and weak things of the world to show what HE can do with us.

God Most High **didn't even let Yeshua pick you**. Father himself did. And HE led you to repentance (**Rom 2:4**). You didn't select God; HE selected YOU through Christ. And God and Christ love us so much. Yes, you, even I, even with all the sordid past we have all had if you really have come to “see” yourself! And he will finish what he started even though we still fail to be perfect in our daily lives. But God chose US, not the other way around.

John 15:15-16

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in MY NAME He may give you.”

Be sure you are praying in Yeshua's name, or Jesus' name, and END your prayers by saying “in Jesus' name” (John 16:23-24). It becomes a prayer that you are speaking to God Abba our Father *as if Jesus himself were praying that prayer*, when you say, “In Jesus' name.” Don't use that phrase casually though. Use it for in prayer. And don't claim something is in Jesus' name unless you know He's told you something special. *Some people trivialize this and suddenly everything they do is “in Jesus' name”.*

We do bless children in His name, we do cast out demons in his name, we do work miracles in his name, and proclaim healing in his name -- so it's all so very precious.

And you became one SPIRIT with Christ once you're given God's very nature and presence of his Holy Spirit. Hallelujah (1 Corinthians 6:17).

Cherish your high calling as one called to be among the very few “First fruits” of God’s salvation. Please **look up the word “CHERISH” in the Search bar** of this website and enjoy that sermon where I really felt God’s anointing on me. That sermon will help you rekindle your thrill to be called now.

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/6-reasons-to-cherish-your-calling-as-firstfruits-pentecost-2019?highlight=WyJJaGVyaXNoIl0=1>

Now back to this sermon spotlighting water immersion/baptism.

Repentance followed by baptism is the start of a thrilling journey with your Savior, being “one with HIM, IN him, and HE in you” as ONE.

I was baptized in December 1971, when I was eighteen. I had been convicted in my heart by various sermons and – very important – as I laid in my bed at a shared room for the **Feast Of Tabernacles in Minehead, England**, I overheard some seniors, in fourth year of college, talking about how God was working in their lives, and how they viewed the women in college in such a clean way -- and on and on – that I felt convicted. Even right then and there, I prayed to God, to cleanse me, wash me from my sins and please accept me as his child.

A couple of months after the Feast, now Dec 1971, I was delighted to be immersed in a tank of water and then to receive the Holy Spirit.

Never take being baptized lightly. It’s the most momentous decision of your life. Don’t put it off. Don’t delay! You’re committing yourself to be a follower of the Son of God, no matter what. It’s even more important than your marriage decision.

Be sure you “COUNT The COST” of discipleship

When I was being counseled for baptism, one of the main topics always covered back then was “Counting the cost.” We have to realize we are agreeing to give up everything if need be, to follow Christ. Our Father and Christ have to be #1 in our life. We’re committing that following God is being put ahead of our family, our children, our own hopes and plans and goals. Everything is now second place to God. Jesus said we have to take up our cross and follow him. Daily, he said.

Luke 9:23-26

Then He said to them all, "**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me.** 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.”

Carrying our cross was a metaphor of marching off to be executed. We have to be willing to die for Christ and one another, as He died for us. In the years ahead in the Great Tribulation, many of us will in fact be martyred for believing and practicing the truth and following God and the real Christ. Some of you believe all true believers will somehow be spared martyrdom, but that's not what the Bible teaches.

Luke 6:22-23

“Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.”

Any discussion on baptisms must include **the “counting the cost” verses**. Where Jesus says, “hate his father and mother”, that's a Hebraic expression apparently that means to “love less by comparison”. So for example where we read that Jacob loved Rachel but God saw that he hated Leah, it really means he loved Leah less than Rachel. (KJV – **Gen 29:30-31**; and yes, “hated” is the word in verse 31).

Luke 14:25-33

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate [love less] his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, **and his OWN life, he cannot be My disciple.**

27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not **sit down first and COUNT the COST** whether he has enough to finish it — 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

We'll find in Philippians 3:8, that Paul counted everything he had before starting to follow Christ, as just so much dung and was willing to give up everything that was formerly of value to him. Now, following Christ, was #1. So make sure, as part of your repentance, that you count the cost of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ before you ask to be baptized. Once you have counted the cost – get baptized, without delay.

So, you repent, count the cost – and find a faithful minister to baptize you as I was baptized in 1971. As I stood there dripping wet, the minister then bowed his head, laid his hands on my head, and asked God to give me His Holy Spirit through the laying on of his hands. I was 18 years old. I felt washed, felt renewed, felt happy, felt emotional, and felt forgiven.

Blessed (Happy) is he whose sins are forgiven. I felt that.

DON'T DELAY once you have repented and counted the cost

But neither should you PUT OFF your baptism once you've repented. When Ananias came to baptize and accept Paul, after he was struck down (Acts 9) on the road to Damascus, he said, "What are you waiting for, Saul. Be baptized!"

So don't delay your baptism once you've repented and accepted Jesus Christ. In Paul's recounting of his own baptism after being struck down on road to Damascus:

Acts 22:14-16

"Then he (Ananias) said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 15 For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now *why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*'

Don't wait until you think you are good enough, finally, for baptism. That's wrong too. Our own goodness is as filthy rags, God says in Isa. 64:6. Once you turn from your old way and want to walk a new walk in Christ – **don't delay.**

MINISTERS: There's zero evidence that those baptized in book of Acts were required to wait until they first had read certain booklets, or to first FAST, or to wait to be sure – no. Once they repented, baptism was done right away. Be sure they understand repentance and their commitment required as you go through some pre-baptism counseling. These very notes could be a useful tool. But don't keep waiting.

Baptized into the NAME OF....

Into whose name are we baptized? People read Matthew 28:19 but what do you need to know about that?

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in **the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them *to***

observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

They were supposed to observe all things Jesus commanded, including this verse. But, every single example however shows the apostles never ever baptized anyone into the Catholic trinity. Never. Not a single time that you can find in scripture. *So they either grossly disobeyed Christ's clear command in Matthew 28:19 – or there must be more to the story!*

We are told we're being baptized into Christ's body – nowhere else can we read that we're to be baptized into the Father or INTO the Holy Spirit as a third person. Instead, every single time we read about what they actually said when baptizing, it was always about baptizing just into the name of Jesus.

Be sure you study my two sermons on “Who/what is the Holy Spirit”?

The church historian and priest **Eusebius** says that Matthew 28:19 prior to the church meetings in Constantinople and surrounding areas – was simply “and make disciples of all nations in my name.” But soon after the big church meetings, as the early Catholics wanted something definite to prove the trinity, those words were added. More on Eusebius: https://www.trinitytruth.org/matthew28_19addedtext.html

I know those trinitarian words weren't there because every instance of baptism was always just in Jesus' name. Every single time, without fail. Let's look at a few.

First let's see what the early church leaders actually did and taught:

Peter told the Pentecost crowd to repent and be **baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...**” (Acts 2:38)

Philip the deacon had baptized Samaritans “...**only in the name of the Lord Jesus**” (Acts 8:16) but they had not had hands laid on them for receiving the Holy Spirit yet.

In Acts 10:48, the household of Cornelius – Peter commanded they “be baptized **in the name of the Lord...**”

Galatians 3:27

“For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.”

Paul had found twelve men who had been baptized into John the Baptist's baptism of repentance, but had never heard of the Holy Spirit. So he rebaptized them into Jesus.

Acts 19:5-7

When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** 6
And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and

they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all”

Isn't that clear now, that ALL baptisms were done solely into Christ and his name. Not a single one was ever done in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So no, today I do not baptize anyone into the Catholic trinity. It just wasn't ever done!

While we're in ACTS 19, let's answer the question of "Should someone ever be RE-BAPTIZED?" When would you consider it?

IS THERE A TIME TO BE REBAPTIZED?

By rebaptism I mean – regardless of your baptism history – should you ever consider being RE-baptized? I mean to have a proper representative of God's church baptize you again? Acts 19 gives us a real life example of people baptized by one no less than John the Baptizer who were rebaptized.

Acts 19:1-7

“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"**

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "Into John's baptism."

4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a **baptism of repentance**, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the MEN were about twelve in all.”

In Acts 19, twelve men in Ephesus were rebaptized – and the one who baptized them earlier had been John the Baptist, but only a baptism of REPENTANCE and no explanation of the Holy Spirit. Let's read it. If you have doubts about your baptism – yes, you can be rebaptized properly. No worries about that.

What could make a previous baptism invalid?

- **If you never really repented** of your sins and who you are without God in your life (story of man in Canada in the video). Or if so young, you had no idea.

- **If you did not publicly confess that you believe on, and CONFESS publicly you believe the Lord Jesus Christ** is the resurrected Son of God and your Savior, your King and Lord. I suspect this might affect more of you.

Romans 10:9-10

“That if you **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- If you weren't ever fully immersed, but just sprinkled. (**Story** of trying to baptize a small woman in our bath tub... was difficult to cover all her body).

NOTE: MODESTY. Women should not wear white if it's “see-through” material. Once they are wet, it should not be “revealing”. Those being baptized should also bring a change of clothing and their own towel.

- IF you didn't understand what you were doing or everything about it was wrong
- If a false minister baptized you. Note: even baptism by John the Baptist – when incomplete – was good reason for rebaptism.
- If you really feel a need to be rebaptized and are not at peace with your present baptism. But neither do we want to see people being rebaptized over and over.

Step 1 should always start with deep true repentance. You might also find and listen to my sermon on “Repenting of what you ARE”. I also have 2 sermons on deep spiritual TRUE repentance. Plus be sure you've “counted the cost”.

Repentance means recognizing you are a sinner, you've broken God's laws, you ask for God's forgiveness and to have your sins washed away in the blood of Messiah (1 John 1:9). You realize you haven't been living right and you decide to turn around and be seeking God now and be washed clean in baptism and in the blood of Jesus Christ – cleansed “from ALL unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Story of elderly illiterate man in Canada who wanted to be baptized. I asked him why. His answer was thrilling and complete! (On video)

CAN ONLY ORDAINED MINISTERS or Pastors BAPTIZE?

Jesus never baptized anyone. He had his disciples do the baptizing in his name.

John 4:1-3

“Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John 2 (**though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples**), 3 He left Judea and departed again to Galilee.”

Note: Yeshua's disciples were not even ordained and didn't even have the Holy Spirit yet! They were simply followers and believers in Jesus and did all the baptizing.

Paul also said he was glad he personally only baptized a few (**1 Cor. 1:13-17**).

STEPHEN – one of the ordained deacons of Acts 6, but not an ordained *minister* yet, baptized dozens in Samaria in Acts 8. So yes, deacons can baptize, and regular members can also, just like the disciples of Jesus did.

When I baptize anyone – like recently I baptized an older teenaged lady, **I asked her father if he would like to assist me in her baptism - -and he did.** We found a river nearby, with flowing water, and it was a beautiful baptism. The ideal is flowing water, “living water”, if possible, but not an absolute requirement.

So ministers do NOT have to be the only ones who can baptize others or assist.

LAYING ON HANDS in my opinion is probably a different matter though, based on the story of Stephen in Acts 8. He did not lay hands on the Samaritans but Jerusalem sent Peter and John to go lay on hands on to receive Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:5-8

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria *and preached Christ* to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, **both men and women were baptized.**”

NOTE: no children or infants are mentioned. **Nowhere can I see in scripture where any infant, CHILD or young teen is ever baptized. Is that a hard and fast rule?**

God talked to and chose Samuel as a young child. David and Jeremiah were also very young. So it's not a hard and fast rule, but I would prefer not to be asked to baptize a child, as I wouldn't preside over a wedding for a 10 yr old, I won't want to baptize a 10 year old picturing his repentance, burial into Christ and commitment to marry the Son of God, Yeshua the Christ.

Acts 8:14-17

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”**

I do believe there's no concrete hard and fast rule in scripture though that requires the laying on of hands to be by an ordained minister. We have the Acts 8 example above, but what about times when there is no ordained true minister around?

Can and should CHILDREN ever be baptized?

Catholics of course sprinkle infants and call it “baptism” but it's not immersion, which is what “baptism” means.

What I'll say is my strong opinion but I believe it has merit.

- **Jesus himself was not baptized until he was 30 (Luke 3:21).** Hmm. He definitely wanted to be fully an adult. Priests were ordained at age 30 (Num. 4:3, 23). Israelites had to be 20 years old or over to not die in the wilderness.
- **Repentance comes before baptism. How does an infant or child understand deeply repenting, his/her human nature,** concepts of sin and righteousness at even 6-14 years old? I've know too many who claimed to love Yeshua at age 10, got baptized and now are in deep sin in their 20's and 30's.
- On other hand, the entire families of Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Philippian jailer were baptized – though no ages are given. I suspect those were all adults.
- Baptism pictures being buried into Christ and we come out of the water picturing rising in resurrection with him, as part of him now, part of his body. Hopefully we are to be the bride of Christ, to marry Christ. **I would never perform a wedding for a 9 year old or 12 yr old.**

So NO, I personally would not agree to baptize any child or young teen. Baptism is too serious of a step to apply it to children.

IS Baptism REQUIRED normally for salvation?

Were all the prophets and our forefathers in the Old Covenant baptized? Not that we're know of, but they will certainly be in the Kingdom of God and saved. Baptism/water immersion seems more a New Testament phenomenon, *though the Jews had their Mikveh* – the ritual purification ceremony.

Baptism IS mentioned for salvation, but remember it's an outward picture or symbol of something we've already done in our hearts: repentance and accepting the washing away of our sins in the blood of Christ and waters of baptism.

When the crowd on Pentecost were pricked in their heart over Peter's sermon, they asked what they should do. Peter answered:

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**"

Note that there was NO long list of things they had to do first before being baptized. Some early instructions 200 years later required some to be fasting, or even baptized several times, but you can't find that in scripture. On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 were just immediately baptized. **(Story in the video of the way it used to be old AC/WCG days with long and vast requirements before baptism.)**

No, those who wanted to be baptized in the early church had to simply repent, and 3,000 did and were baptized that very same day. Not lots of time being spent in study, fasting, counseling and all the rigmarole we used to have to require. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 was also baptized quickly, as were the Philippian jailer and his family in Acts 16:30-34.

When entire families are baptized: this shows little hesitancy to baptize others besides the main character like the jailer and like Cornelius the centurion in Acts 10.

Mark 16:15-17 Here are Jesus' own words:

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 **He who believes and is baptized will be saved;** but he who does not believe will be condemned."

But then again, keep in mind that baptism/immersion in water is a picture, a ritual showing what we have already done in our hearts and minds. And I see no evidence that the Old Covenant patriarchs were all baptized in any formal baptism ceremony. Paul says Israel was "baptized" in the Red Sea – but that was more a type than a formal baptism as we practice today (1 Cor. 10:1-4).

So do you want to be baptized? Be sure you have made the decision to live for Christ going forward; and you've repented and take this step very seriously.

Closing prayer.