

Baptisms in the Bible

There is more than one type of baptism in the Bible. As a dispensational church, we must discover which one(s) are for us. Paul tells us there is only one baptism.

Ephesians 4:3-7

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism**, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

So what is the one type of baptism Paul talks about? It is not with water. Paul told the Corinthians that he was not sent to water baptize people. Paul tells them that by using water baptism for the remission of sins, after Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, makes the crucifixion of Christ of "none effect."

1 Corinthians 1:14-18

I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also

the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

What is the one baptism for the Church, the Body of Christ? The baptism of the Holy Ghost: hearing and believing that the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ took away your sins, and then being place into the body of Christ by the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **For by one Spirit are we all 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. For the body is not one member, but many.

What are some other types of baptisms?

The Baptism to Fulfill All Righteousness

This baptism refers only to Jesus' baptism by John. There was no need for Jesus to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, because He did not have any sins.

Matthew 3:13-15

Then cometh **Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.

Jesus came to fulfill the Law for the Jews, to impart His righteousness to them. He had to be baptized for them, too.

Matthew 5:17-18

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The Crucifixion

Jesus called His crucifixion a baptism.

Matthew 20:21-23

And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. **Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:** but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Paul uses this “baptism” to explain how our belief in Christ makes us part of His crucifixion (which He called a “baptism.”)

Colossians 2:10-12

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are

circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Romans 6:3-6

Know ye not, **that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:** that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,** that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

A shared experience is called “a baptism.”

Peter explains that Jesus saved the Jews who believed in Him by the “baptism” of His death, burial, and resurrection, much like Noah (the like figure) saved the 8 people by the water of the

flood. Noah's baptism involved water, but the ones who were saved showed their faith by *avoiding* the water and getting on the ark.

Jews who believed in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, were baptized by that belief "the answer of a good conscience toward God."

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited **in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:** Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

In another passage, Paul talked about the miracle experienced by the nation Israel as they were rescued from slavery in Egypt. This was another “baptism” that involved water, but the ones who were baptized were the ones that did not get wet!

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that **all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;** And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

We know this is true because God celebrated the fact that Israel walked on dry ground through the Red Sea!

Exodus 14:22

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

The Baptism of John

Every reference to John the Baptist in some way includes the fact he was baptizing with water. His message was, “Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.”

Mark 1:4-5

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and **were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.**

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

The people who were water baptized were showing their faith by getting ready for Jesus Christ to baptize them with the Holy Ghost—with no water. When you see the word “but,” you know that there is a change. (Underline added.)

Acts 1:5

For **John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

The Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for the Remission of Sins.

Faithful Jews, who were there for the feast of Pentecost, had already been water baptized by John the Baptist. At Pentecost, the promised Baptism by Jesus Christ with the Holy Ghost, the gospel message was changed. People were to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. This did not require water, it required belief that Jesus Christ was the promised savior and King of Israel.

Acts 2:38-41

Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he

testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**

This is the type of baptism Jesus gave His disciples to do during what we know as “the great commission.” Jesus told them to baptize “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

At Pentecost, those who believed, were baptized by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and then immediately received the Holy Ghost.

After Pentecost, receiving the Holy Ghost required a laying-on of hands by someone who had already received the Holy Ghost. This is much like passing a candle flame.

This verse explains it. When they believed the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ...they were baptized. But there is no mention of the Holy Ghost yet.

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

In the following passage explains the 2-step process. People of Samaria had received (believed) the word of God. The Samaritans were (only) baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus because they had received the word of God, but had not automatically received the Holy Ghost. The disciples sent Peter and John to pray for them to receive the Holy Ghost. The Samaritans received the Holy Ghost when Peter and John laid their hands on them.

Acts 8:14-17

Now 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 Holy Ghost: **(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)** Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Following is a passage explaining the progression for the Jews from the baptism by water (John's baptism,) then, after the crucifixion, to the baptism by belief (baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus,) and then to the baptism by the Holy Ghost (laying-on of hands.) We know that this passage is talking about Jews because Paul finds "certain disciples." Paul worked alongside Jews all through the book of Acts.

Acts 19:1-6

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, **Have ye received the**

Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** And he said unto them, **Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.** Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance,** saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

The next step, through progressive revelation, was to take the baptism of the Holy Ghost to the Gentiles. Peter was sent to a Gentile named Cornelius. The following passage explains the difference between the baptism of John (for the Jews) and the baptism the Paul is talking about for the Church, the Body of Christ.

Acts 10:21-22

Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore

ye are come? And they said, **Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.**

Here is the message Peter told Cornelius, and the people with him, about Jesus Christ:

Acts 10:37-43

That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he**

which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Then without water, and without someone laying-on hands, Cornelius and the people who believed with him, were baptized by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:44-46

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all 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,

Cornelius had not been water baptized by John the Baptist, so Peter didn't know what to do, so he baptized them with water *after* the Holy Ghost came upon them.

Acts 10:47-48

Can any man forbid water, 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. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Progressive revelation is how the Bible teaches. After Cornelius' baptism, we read Peter's version of what happened. Notice, in verse 17, he now understood that the Lord was doing something different, taking His salvation straight to the Gentiles, and Peter was not going to go against it.

Acts 11:15-18

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. **Then**

remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, **Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.**