

New Testament Baptisms Series
"Baptism in Water"

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, 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." Hebrews 6:1-3

1. An elementary principle: Doctrine of baptisms
 - a. This foundational doctrine is plural: doctrine of baptisms.
 - b. Four kinds of baptisms: baptism in water, baptism into the body of Christ, baptism of fire, and baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. Baptism in water is a demonstration of obedience
 - a. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward cleansing from sin. It is an act of faith and obedience.
 - b. Jesus set the example (Matthew 3:15)
 - c. Baptism followed belief in Jesus: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16
 - d. Infant baptism not mentioned in the Bible.
3. Baptism in water makes a public announcement
 - a. First step of obedience is water baptism: "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.'" Acts 2:38
 - b. Makes a public announcement: "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." Mark 1:4
 - c. Christians are empowered to fulfill the Great Commission as they make disciples and baptize them. "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, 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." Matthew 28:19-20
4. Baptism in water shows we are dead to sin and alive to Christ.
 - a. "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." Romans 6:4
 - b. Baptized in Greek means "to immerse." However, the mode is not as important as knowing your old nature is dead and you are now alive to Christ.

5. Baptism in water illustrates a New Testament circumcision
 - a. "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2:11-12
 - b. Bondage of the past is broken after coming through the water, just like children of Israel coming through Red Sea after bondage to Egypt. "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,..." 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
 - c. Sin is not our master. "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14 Our old self is crucified with Christ. "...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." Romans 6:6

6. Baptism in water shows we are obeying God
 - a. We are exhorted to believe and be baptized. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16
 - b. Symbolizes a spiritual cleansing. "There is also an antitype which now saves us— baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,..." 1 Peter 3:21
 - c. What about a deathbed conversion? Luke 23:40-43
 - d. Baptism shortly after conversion is the norm. "Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

7. Be baptized in water!
 - a. What are you waiting for? Doubts can cloud your faith. "But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin." Romans 14:23
 - b. Paul trained others in the church to help him. "I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name... For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect." 1 Corinthians 1:14-15, 17