

Water Baptism by itself  
doesn't save anyone

We must be  
spiritually  
baptised by God

# biblical Baptism

Why are we baptised? If the reason for being baptised doesn't follow the word of God, something is missing. If our lives haven't been surrendered to God, we work baptism on behalf of our sin. Water Baptism by itself doesn't save anyone. If the Spirit of God isn't our motivation we are still in control.

Water baptism is only a public sign that we have already acknowledged we are sinners under the judgement of God, and rightfully condemned to death. Baptism shows we accept we need to be reconciled with God through the death of Christ on the cross in our place, for He died the death we deserve, so we can receive His life we don't deserve. Water baptism is only an outward sign that indicates we have already died to self in repentance of our sinful rebellion. And shows that by faith we have relied on God's Mercy in Christ's death for our sins. And by the faith we have received from God, we believe that we are washed by the blood of Jesus Christ, so that we can be raised up in newness of spiritual life with God.

If we don't recognise that we are enemies of God because of our disobedience and our refusal to honour Him as our Creator, who alone has the right to receive our undivided devotion, then we don't understand our need to repent and turn from self-interest to live for Him before we are baptised. Real baptism is not by human hands, but by the power of the Spirit of God who convicts us through the gift of faith when we were dead in sin, so that we are more than willing to deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Christ in obedience and trust in God. Spiritual baptism is adoption into God's family.

*'See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you*

*alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings.'*

Col 2:8-13

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and we realise we have no hope of life without Christ, we must repent and turn our life over to God. If there is no conviction of our spiritual death in sin, it means there will be no understanding we need to be reconciled with God, and know we need to be born again by the grace of God through faith with a life consistent with the divine nature.

The real baptism happens when our will is first converted to the will of God by the work of the Spirit of God who gives us the faith to believe in Christ.

Water baptism is the public welcome into the visible church that has already taken place by the invisible hand of God when He chose us out of the corruption of the world to be included in Christ as members of His heavenly body.

*'And you were dead in your offenses and sins, in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Therefore remember that previously you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision" which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.'*

Eph 2:1-13

## **God saves dead people who live for themselves**

*"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."* Ezekiel 36:26-27

## **Spiritual conversion takes place before water baptism**

*'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God....*

*and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also celebrate in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation....*

*But the gracious gift is not like the offense. For if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. For if by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ....*

*So then, as through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind, so also through one act of righteousness the result was justification of life to all mankind. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous....so that, as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

Rom 5:1-2, 5-6, 9-11,15, 17-19, 21

*'What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus have been baptised into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into*

*death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all time; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body's parts as instruments of righteousness for God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.'*

Rom 6:1-14

*'Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if*

*by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'* Rom 8:1-17

### **God's work is effective because He is working in us**

*'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.'* 2 Cor 5:14-15, 17-21

*'For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.'*  
Gal 3:26-27

### **Baptism means repentance is to be a daily experience and our responsibility**

*"If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*  
Luke 9:23

*'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.'* Phil 2:12-16

### **We have all things with Christ because we are in Christ**

*'For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.'*  
Gal 3:27

*'Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Saviour of the body.'*  
Eph 5:23

*'Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.'* 1 Cor 12:27

*'In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.'* Heb 1:2-3

*'For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the originator of their salvation through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.'* Heb 2:10-11

### **We lack nothing required if we live by faith in Christ**

*'His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.'* 2 Peter 1:3-4

*'Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.'* 2 Cor 12:9

*'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'* Phil 4:13

*'For it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.'* Phil 2:13

*'Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God....and have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it.'* Col 3:1-3, 10

*'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.'* Eph 6:10

Our motivation to live by faith comes with the Spirit who lives in us.

# Living Water Resources

## Come to the River

*'Christ was faithful as a Son over His house— whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope. Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end.**'*

Heb 3:6,12-14

“Here is a word for Christians. Knowing your strength lies wholly in God and not in yourself, remain humble - even when God is blessing and using you most. Remember, when you have your best suit on, who made it and who paid for it! God's favour is neither the work of your own hands nor the price of your own worth. How can you boast of what you did not buy? If you embezzle God's strength and credit it to your own account, He will soon call an audit and take back what was His all along. Even when He seems the most generous with your spiritual allowance, He still keeps the account in His own name and can at once reduce you to spiritual poverty if you misappropriate His grace.” William Gurnall. The Christian in complete armour.

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