

# AUTHORITY

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## baptism

Christ is the only authority on salvation

- His gospel has the power, Rom. 1:16, 17
- Must be obedient to the faith, Acts 6:7
- Salvation to those who obey, Heb. 5:9

# AUTHORITY

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## baptism

### ► BAPTISM METHOD

Requirements regard baptism

- Mode: immersion
  - Symbolic of burial, Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
  - No hands, feet, knees sticking out of water

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## **baptism**

### ▶ **BAPTISM IS A SIGN**

#### Facts to affirm

- Power of salvation is not in the water
- Forgiveness is not inherent in act of immersion
- Power of salvation is with God; blood of Christ
- Forgiveness granted based on obedient faith
  - Alternative 1: forgiveness without faith
  - Alternative 2: forgiveness w/disobedient faith

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## **baptism**

### ▶ **BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS**

#### Make your call & election sure, 2 Pt. 1:10, 11

- Baptized too young
- Baptized under denominational preaching
- Uneasy or unsure in any way

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

Q: So if baptism is not critical for salvation, why then should we be baptized?

A: Firstly, it is a command from the Lord:

Matt 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”

Anyone who has experienced God’s grace in salvation, should automatically respond with a desire to obey his commands. Thus, every true believer should naturally want to be baptized. So while baptism is not necessary for salvation, their experience would be questionable if a person claiming to believe refused to be baptized.

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

It was the practice of Jesus in his ministry:

John 3:22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

John 3:26 They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan - the one you testified about - well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”

John 4:1-2 The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- ❑ It was the practice of the early (i.e. apostolic) church. The accounts of repentance and salvation in the book of Acts are always followed by baptism in water. On the day of Pentecost we read:
  - ... they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”  
Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, 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 promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:37-39)
- ❑ Peter makes it clear that the promise is still for us today (“for all whom the Lord our God will call”.)

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- ❑ Baptism is a powerful external symbol of at least 7 spiritual things:
  - 1) It is a symbol of CLEANSING FROM SIN. Subsequent to his Damascus Road conversion Paul was told by Ananias, “Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name. ” (Acts 22:16).
  - 2) Baptism also symbolizes our DEATH TO SIN and the BURIAL OF THE OLD LIFE OF SIN.
    - Rom 6:3-4 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- 3) Baptism not only symbolizes our death and the burial to the old life of sin; coming out of the water symbolizes the RESURRECTION TO A NEW LIFE:
- Rom 6:4 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.
  - Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.



## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- 4) The immersion in water also symbolizes a “CLOTHING OURSELVES WITH CHRIST”:
- Gal 3:26-28 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- 5) Then it is “THE PLEDGE OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD”. By our baptism we publicly declare our faith that Jesus has made us spiritually clean and that our conscience is now clear before God.
- 1 Peter 3:20-21 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- 6) Any covenant must be signed and baptism is the SIGN OF THE NEW COVENANT. In the Old Covenant, circumcision was an outward sign of an inward reality. In the New Covenant baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality.
- Col 2:11-13 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins...

## WHY BE BAPTISED?

- 7) Finally it is a PUBLIC DECLARATION AND CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH to all in attendance:
- Rom 10:9-11 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."
  - Matt 10:32-33 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."

	Salvation	Water Baptism	Holy Spirit Baptism
Baptizer	Holy Spirit 1 Cor 12:13	Pastor/Minister Acts 8:35-38	Jesus Christ John 1:32-34
Element	Body of Christ 1 Cor 12:13	Water (H <sub>2</sub> O) Acts 8:35-38	Holy Spirit John 1:32-34
Evidence	Changed Life 2 Cor 5:17	Getting Wet Acts 8:35-38	Speaking In Tongues Acts 2:4