



**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 28:19

Water Baptism

Study Outline - Topics

Introduction	3
Old Testament Types and Shadows	3
Reasons for Baptism	4
The Day of Pentecost	5
Revival in Samaria	5
The Ethiopian Eunuch.....	5
Paul's Conversion	6
Cornelius & Household.....	6
Lydia & Household	6
The Philippian Jailer & Family	7
The Corinthians, Crispus & Family	7
The Ephesians	7
Preparation for Water Baptism.....	7
Must Show Fruits of Repentance	8
Re-Baptism.....	9
The Mode of Baptism.....	10
Total Submersion	10
Much Water	10
Came Up from the Water	10
Went Down into the Water	10
The Formula for Baptism.....	10
The Formula Given by Jesus.....	11
Formulas Used by the Apostles	11
Preparation to Receive the Spirit	11
How We Relate to Christ	12
Sin is Buried - Old Habits Broken	12
Bury the Old, Walk in the New.....	12

Click or Tap the Topic to Go Back & Forth

Water Baptism

Introduction

Water baptism as seen in the New Testament was introduced by John the Baptist, and endorsed by Jesus. The Apostles continued the practice, and since then there has been a lot of opposition against baptism at different times, by different people. Currently baptism can put true believers in communist, Muslim, and other countries in danger, and some are even killed because of baptism.

What is the great spiritual significance of water baptism that would encourage people to risk their lives to be baptized? Hopefully by the end of this study, we will have a better appreciation for the profound impact that water baptism can have in our lives.

Old Testament Types and Shadows

The Bible is full of different types and shadows, which are pictures that revealed different aspects of Christ in the Old Testament.

Noah and the Arc

After Adam's fall, mankind had become so corrupt that God had to send judgment in the form of a flood. All of sinful mankind died, and was buried under the water, and Noah's came out of the Arc to walk into a different world. This is a shadow of how our old life is dead and buried, and we are raised to walk in a new life with Christ.

- **I Peter 3:20-22**, ... 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. **It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ**, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Moses and the Red Sea

When Moses led the children of Israel, they came out of Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb, then God opened the Red Sea and the children of Israel crossed it on dry land, but the Egyptians attempting to do so were drowned.

The Red Sea experience points to how we relate our experiences to Christ. Christ was our Passover lamb, and we reckon ourselves to be crucified with him. When the Egyptians were buried in the waters of the Red Sea, this represents how our old man, or our old way of life was buried with Christ, at the waters of baptism.

- **I Corinthians 10:1-6**, For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers (Israel) were all under the cloud and that **they all passed through the (Red) sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.** They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the **spiritual rock** that accompanied them, and **that rock was Christ.** Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. **Now these things occurred as examples** to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

The Laver in the Tabernacle

The tabernacle was Israel's portable place of worship, which Paul said was a pattern of heavenly things. In the outer court of the tabernacle the priest had three responsibilities, kill sacrifices on the altar, wash at the laver, and be anointed with oil before entering the Holy Place. They all point to Christ and the gospel, the altar points to the cross, the Laver points to water baptism, and being anointed with oil points to the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- **Exodus 30:18-19**, "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.

Reasons for Baptism

Every believer in Jesus needs to be water baptized, if you can be baptized, you should be baptized, for all the following reasons.

To Fulfill All Righteousness

Jesus came to fulfill the law, and by being baptized he recognized baptism as being legitimate act of obedience, he endorsed it, he fulfilled it, and he said that it was a righteous thing to do.

- **Matthew 3:13 - 17**, Then **Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.** But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; **it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John consented.

Jesus Command It

Jesus was baptized himself, and he commands all of his followers to do the same.

- **Matthew 28:18 - 20** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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,**

The First Church Baptized

The book of acts has numerous examples of water baptism. Getting water baptized quickly after conversion was clearly the standard operating procedure for the churches of the apostles.

The Day of Pentecost

On the day of Pentecost there were 120 disciples praying, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. There were large crowds who were there for the feast, and Peter stood up to preach. At the end of Peter's message, 3,000 people were saved and immediately baptized.

- **Acts 2:41**, Ac 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Revival in Samaria

Philip went to the city of Samaria and a large number of people came to Christ, and were baptized.

- **Acts 8:12-13**, 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. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized,** he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

The Ethiopian Eunuch

After Philip left Samaria he met an Ethiopian in a chariot, and preached Christ to him. Then the Ethiopian asked to Philip to be baptized, and since they were next to water, he was immediately baptized.

- **Acts 8:36-38**, Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Paul's Conversion

The apostle Paul had a vision of Jesus, and in the experience, he was converted to Christ, and he was left blind by the incident. He did not eat or drink for three days, and Ananias was sent to pray for him. After prayer Paul was instantly healed, and he was immediately baptized. Paul did not eat or drink for three days, but baptism was so important that he did eat until after he was baptized.

- **Acts 9:1-17** And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. "Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened.

Cornelius & Household

Peter did something very scandalous for the early disciples, he went to the house of a non-Jewish person, they called them gentiles. God had prepared Peter by giving him a vision, and telling him to go. When Peter preached to Cornelius, his whole household was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Peter commanded not suggested, that they should also be water baptized, it was the obvious next step.

- **Acts 10:44-48**, While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "**Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?**" **And he commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Lydia & Household

On Paul's missionary journey he came to Thyatira, and preached to a group of women. Lydia received his message, and she and everyone in her house believed and were baptized.

- **Acts 16:14** One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.

The Philippian Jailer & Family

Paul was preaching in Philippi and a riot broke out, so he and Silas were beaten and flogged, and thrown in jail. Paul and Silas were praying and there was an earthquake, which created the circumstances for the Jailer to ask Paul, how to be saved which led to his whole family being saved and baptized.

- **Acts 16:30-33** He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved** you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then **immediately he and all his family were baptized.**

The Corinthians, Crispus & Family

Paul preached in Corinth at a synagogue, and received strong opposition so he went to a believer's house that was next door to the synagogue. The leader of the synagogue, his family, and many others followed him and were baptized.

- **Acts 18:8** Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

The Ephesians

When Paul came to Ephesus he met twelve disciples of Apollos, who was only familiar with the baptism of John the Baptist. So, Paul baptized them in Jesus' name, and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 19:2-6, Ac 19:3** So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, **they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,** and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Preparation for Water Baptism

John the Baptist did not accept all candidates who offered themselves for water baptism. When John discerned insincere people at his baptisms, he gave them scathing rebukes.

- **Matthew 3:7-9**, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ... And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

Later the chief Priest challenged Jesus' authority, so he asked them about the baptism of John, was it from God or man? This highlighted Jesus endorsement of baptism, while revealing the priest's unbelief.

- **Matthew 21:25-27 John's baptism where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?**" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then **why didn't you believe him?**' But if we say, 'From men' we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that **John was a prophet.**" So, they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Like John the Baptist, we also need discernment to detect insincerity and lack of conviction in the candidates of baptism. **The following is a list of characteristics that should be found in water baptism candidates:**

Must Show Fruits of Repentance

There must be signs that somebody has genuinely repented, and there should be evidence that they have repented. For example, if they were a thief they should stop stealing, and restore what was stolen. Whatever sins a person was involved in, they need to stop doing them, and repair the damage as much as possible.

- **Matthew 3:1-12 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance ...** The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. **"I baptize you with water for repentance.**
- **Acts 2:38,** "Then Peter said unto them, **repent and be baptized.**"

Must Be Receptive to the Word of God

The word of God should be an obsession for any new believer. But receiving the word is more than just hearing it, it is study, sharing, and putting it into practice.

- **Acts 2:41-42,** "Then they **that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day were added to them about three thousand souls. And **they continued steadfastly** in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
- **Acts 16:31-34,** Then **they spoke the word of the Lord** to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And **immediately he and all his family were baptized ... and he rejoiced, having believed in God** with all his household.

Must be Believers

It is meaningless for a sinner to be dunked underwater, and come out a sinner, only to live a life of sin. Candidates for water baptism must be born again, or should not be baptized.

- **Acts 8:12,13**, "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 (**Notice that there is no mention of children, The Bible has never endorsed child or infant baptism!**) Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip."
- **Acts 8:26-40**, Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. **What hinders me from being baptized?**" Then Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**" And he answered and said, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**" So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and **he baptized him.**
- **Acts 16:31-34**, So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And **immediately he and all his family were baptized.**
- **Mark 16:16**, "**He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Re-Baptism

In some cases, the first baptism was improper, possibly because the candidate was not a believer at the time, or it was infant baptism, or sprinkling, or other questionable circumstances. In such cases it may be proper to be re-baptized. Paul came across the disciples of Apollos, who were knew only of the baptism of John the Baptist. Paul re-baptized them in Jesus' name, then prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

- **Acts 19:3-5** So Paul asked, "Then **what baptism did you receive?**" "**John's baptism,**" they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.**

The Mode of Baptism

Naturally when you bury someone you don't leave them on top of the ground, and just sprinkle a little dirt on their forehead. The very word "baptism" has the meaning of being totally submerged, or immersed. When you bury someone, you put them six feet under the ground. So, if water baptism symbolizes burial, then complete submersion under the water is the correct mode of baptism.

Total Submersion

Again, burial represents being completely submerged under the water in baptism.

- **Colossians 2:12** "**Buried with him at baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Much Water

Why would John need much water if he could just sprinkle a little on their heads? John needed much water to submerge those being baptized!

- **John 3:23**, "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because **there was much water there**: and they came, and were baptized."

Came Up from the Water

Jesus was not sprinkled with a little water; he came up out the water.

- **Matthew 3:14-16**, When He had been baptized, Jesus **came up immediately from the water**; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Also, **Mark 1:10**)

Went Down into the Water

Why would Philip and the eunuch go down into the water, and come up out of the water, if the eunuch was sprinkled? Philip totally submerged the eunuch underwater.

- **Acts 8:36-38**, Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "**See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?**" ... And **both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him**. 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.

The Formula for Baptism

The expression, "formula" is a reference to which name, and which words are spoken over the individual while they are being baptized. Here are some biblical examples.

The Formula Given by Jesus

Jesus gave specific instructions about water baptism, which also revealed the trinity of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

- **Matthew 28:19**, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**"

Formulas Used by the Apostles

The Apostles were careful not to baptize in their own name, they always deflected all the honor and glory to God. Also, they did not want baptism to be a source of contention among believers.

- **1 Corinthians 1:13-15** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or **were you baptized in the name of Paul? 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.** Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.
- **Acts 2:38**, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."
- **Acts 10:48**, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."
- **Acts 19:5**, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Preparation to Receive the Spirit

In the book of Acts we see that people were receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the same time they were being water baptized.

- **Acts 2:38** 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.**
- **Acts 8:15 -17**, "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.**"
- **Acts 19:5 - 6**, "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 spoke with tongues, and prophesied."

How We Relate to Christ

Notice how Paul describes how can we relate our experience to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. This is the gospel, we are crucified with him (**born again**), buried with him (**water baptized**), and raised to walk in newness of life (**Spirit filled**), (1 Cor 15:3-4).

Sin is Buried - Old Habits Broken

During the course of our lifetime (before Christ) we built up a life of sinful habits and lusts which perverted our character, and contaminated our minds, like immorality, drug abuse, alcoholism, and so forth. The body of sin is what remains of the immoral habits and practices from our old life.

We need to renew our minds, which will transform our lives, by relating our life to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Every time the old life tries to surface, we must reckon that the old sinful person we used to be is dead, (crucified with Christ), and has have been buried (at water baptism), and that Christ is now living his life through us, (resurrected with Christ, and Spirit filled), (**Gal 2:20**).

- **Romans 6:2-8** ... How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. 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**. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him

Bury the Old, Walk in the New

We must continuously put to death and burying our sinful nature, and put on the character Christ which makes a new creation.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new**.
- **Ephesians 4:22-24** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to **be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- **Colossians 3:5-10 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:** sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these:** anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since **you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

We can renew the commitment we made at water baptism every time we recognize any sinful urges rising up within us. We fight sin by reckoning ourselves dead, buried and risen with Christ. In the process we distance ourselves from the sinful nature that used to control us, and we develop the character of Christ in our lives.