

BAPTISM

There are seven baptisms in Scripture: Four are real, and three are ritual.

The word "BAPTIZO" means to identify, to be made one with. It means something so identified with something else, that its nature or character is changed; or it represents a real change that has already taken place.

1. Four real baptisms (Actual identification)

A. Baptism of Moses:

The children of Israel are identified with Moses and the cloud as they passed through the Red Sea.

1. 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, "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."

B. Baptism of the cross or cup:

1. Matthew 20:22, "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."
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
3. Jesus Christ drank the cup filled with our sins, identified with our sins and bore it on the Cross. He was made sin for us.
4. 1 Peter 2:24, "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed."

C. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: (Believer)

1. 1 Corinthians 12:13, "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."
2. He, at the point of salvation, is placed into the body of Christ, He is identified then as a believer, as a Christian.
 - a. Acts 1:5, "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence."
 - b. Romans 6:3, 4, "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 glory of the Father, even so we also could walk in newness of life."
 - c. Galatians 3.
 - d. Colossians 2:12, "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."
 - e. Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

D. Baptism of fire: (Unbelievers)

The baptism of judgment at the Second Advent, of all unbelievers, Battle of Armageddon.

1. Matthew 25:31, 33, "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory:" "And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left."
2. Matthew 3:11, "I indeed baptize you with water upon 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 Spirit, and with fire."

3. Luke 3:16, "John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
 4. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."
2. Three ritual baptisms:
 Representative identification, water is used. Water is symbolic of something else, but the individual is really identified with the water.
- A. Baptism of John:
1. Matthew 3:6, 11A, "And were baptized of Him in Jordan, confessing their sins." "I indeed baptize you with water upon repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I."
 2. Water is symbolic of the Kingdom of God which John preached. People, when baptized by John, were indicating, in effect, "I have previously believed in Christ, I am now symbolizing that identification with His Kingdom by baptism."
- B. Baptism of Jesus Christ:
 Unique baptism. Water was used. Jesus Christ was not a sinner. Water is symbolic of the Father's will. Jesus Christ identified Himself with the Father's will in the execution of our salvation.
1. Matthew 3:13-17, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of Him. But John forbade 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 fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered Him. And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens, were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 2. We cannot "follow" the Lord in baptism, as to His purpose (securing our redemption) but can, in duplication of the mode of His baptism. But it is better to never use the phrase. Also, our Lord was obedient to the plan and the will of God. In baptism, the believer is obedient to the plan and the will of God.
- C. Baptism of the believer in the Church Age:
1. 1 Corinthians 1:13-17, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? 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."
 2. Water represents the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 Believers are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It symbolizes retroactive and current positional truth. It is the ritual of the real baptism of the Holy Spirit, above. It is thus a picture of spirit baptism. It indicated, down with human good and up with Divine Good. We are now going to live our lives in the filling of the Holy Spirit.