

## BAPTISM

**Baptism** — The Bible COMMANDS us to *repent* of our sins and then to be *baptized* (Acts 2:38). As only mature individuals can truly *repent*, baptism is therefore NOT for infants or children. Also, *only adults were ever baptized in the Bible* (Acts 8:12)—with Jesus Himself being baptized at the age of about 30 (Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:23).

Concerning the importance of baptism—here’s what Jesus told the apostles after His resurrection: “*He who believes AND is baptized will be saved...*” (Mark 16:16).

Also, as every example in the Bible clearly demonstrates, water baptism involves TOTAL IMMERSION into the water—and NOT just the pouring or sprinkling of water (Matthew 3:6, 16; Acts 8:36-39).

Plus, as Acts 2:38 and several other Scriptures (such as Acts 10:48 & 19:5) point out—we must ONLY be “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” and NOT the name of some particular church group or any other name.

Now, there is *one* Scripture (Matthew 28:19) that tells us to be baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Yet all the other Scriptures only tell us to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but in every single example given in the Bible, everyone who is baptized is baptized in the name of Jesus only—and NEVER “in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38-41, 10:48, 19:5, 8:16-17, 22:16; 1 Corinthians 1:12-13). More than likely this one particular Scripture that tells us to be baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit” was NOT in the original Greek of the first century (when the New Testament was first written)—but was fallaciously added years later by someone who wrongly believed in the trinity. Otherwise, almost surely, someone would have been baptized in this manner—but no one in the entire Bible ever was!

Finally, after truly repenting and being properly baptized we are then promised that our (past) sins would be forgiven and that we would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). But one more thing is still required: "...they were BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS. And when Paul had *laid hands on them*, the Holy Spirit came upon them..." (Acts 19:1-6). And Acts 8:14-19 shows just how important this "*laying on of hands*" by a servant of God actually is: "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He [the Holy Spirit] had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus [*and had NOT had hands laid upon them*]. Then *they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit*. Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 19:1-6** — And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, we have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you *baptized*?" So they said, "Into John's *baptism*." Then Paul said, "John indeed *baptized* with a *baptism* of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

**Acts 8:14-19** — Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He [it] had fallen upon none of them. They had only been *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus* [and had NOT had hands laid upon them]. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 2:38** — 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."

**Mark 16:16** — He who believes AND is *baptized* will be saved...

**Acts 8:12** — 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*.

**Luke 3:23** — Now *Jesus Himself began His ministry at about THIRTY years of age*, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,

**Matthew 3:16** — *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water...*

**Matthew 3:13-17** — Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to

fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. *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. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

**Matthew 3:5-6** — Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him [John the Baptist] and were baptized by him *in the Jordan*, CONFESSING THEIR SINS.

**Acts 8:36-39** — 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.* 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.

**Acts 10:48** — And he *commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.* Then they asked him to stay a few days.

**Acts 2:38-41** — 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. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” *Then those who gladly received his word were*

*baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

**Acts 22:16** — And now why are you waiting? Arise and be *baptized*, and wash away your sins, *calling on the name of the Lord.*

**1 Corinthians 1:12-16** — Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” *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.

**Matthew 28:19** — 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.

*[Every other Scripture in the Bible shows that we are to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ONLY. Matthew 28:19 appears to contradict all the other Scriptures concerning this subject—therefore I do NOT think this particular Scripture is accurate. Probably sometime after the 1<sup>st</sup> century, someone (who probably believed in the false trinity doctrine) deceptively added the last part of this particular Scripture.]*