

WATER BAPTISM

A **MANNAHOUSE** RESOURCE



HOW TO BE A STRONG CHRISTIAN

God has provided everything necessary for His children to become all that He intended them to be. **If we follow His plan** for our lives **we are guaranteed** to become strong Christians.

A FIRST STEP

One of the first steps a new Christian should take is to **be baptized in water**. The eternal significance of Water Baptism can be clearly seen when we examine what the Bible teaches.

On the following pages of this booklet we will present a brief yet concise study of this essential doctrine.

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WHAT IS IT?

Jesus stressed the vital importance of Water Baptism when **He commissioned His followers to baptize all** those who became Christians.

*“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**”.* Matt. 28: 19

Water Baptism is far more than a ritual or religious exercise. It is intended to be an essential part of the spiritual foundation of all new Christians. At the time of a believer's baptism in water he **outwardly affirms the inward commitment he has made to Jesus Christ** as the Lord of his life.

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, we must carefully consider what the Bible says about it.

FOR WHOM?

Q. Who should be Water Baptized?

A. All Christians are admonished to be Water Baptized.

Jesus stressed its importance when He said: ***“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”*** Mark 16: 16 (NIV)

Peter, fulfilling Christ’s command, preached: ***“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.”***
Acts 2:38 (RSV)

and **Peter** also **commanded it**: ***“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord ... ”*** Acts 10:48

DO YOU HAVE TO?

Q. Is it necessary for you to be water baptized in order for you to be a Christian?

A. NO! The Bible says: *“For by grace **you have been saved through faith**; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - **not because of works**, lest any man should boast.”* Eph. 2:8-9 (RSV)

But though you are not saved by water baptism, **you are still commanded by scripture** to partake of this holy act. God promises to do a great work in your life if you are **obedient to His commands**.

*“**If you are willing and obedient**, you shall eat the good of the land”.*
Isa. 1:19 (RSV)

*“We know that **we have come to know him if we obey his commands.**”*
I John 2:3 (NIV)

WHEN?

Q. When should you be Water Baptized?

A. After you:

1. Repent - turn away from sin to follow Jesus.

2. Believe - completely trust in Christ's death and resurrection for your salvation.

REPENT - The apostle Peter said: "**Repent, and be baptized . . .**"

Acts 2:38 (KJV)

BELIEVE - Jesus said: "Whoever **believes** and is **baptized** will be **saved.**"

Mark 16:16 (NIV)

Acts 8:12 says: "**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.**"

BABY BAPTISM?

Q. If you were baptized as a baby, is that enough?

A. No. Infant baptism is not taught anywhere in the Bible.

REPENTANCE AND BELIEVING ARE ESSENTIAL

As was stated on the previous page, it is necessary for a Christian to **repent and believe** before he can receive the benefits of being baptized in water.

Obviously **a little baby cannot** make a commitment to **repent and believe**.

BAPTIZING CHILDREN

On the other hand, a child who is mature enough to make the decision of allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord of his life can and **should be water baptized**.

WHAT IS IT?

The Bible teaches that every Christian should be water baptized.

In order to do so, we must **repent and believe** on Jesus Christ. Obviously **water baptism has an important spiritual significance in that we outwardly identify with Jesus Christ** and affirm our commitment to live for Him.

On the next few pages of this booklet we will discuss **the spiritual effects of repenting, believing, and being baptized in water:**

1. We **die to our old sinful nature and are resurrected** in newness of life.
2. We are **forgiven of our sins.**
3. Our **old man is crucified.**
4. We experience a **circumcision of the heart.**

DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION

Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead.

As **Jesus freely chose to die** in our place, so **we must willingly enter into** the waters of **baptism** to rise in newness of life.

The Bible says: “ ... all of us who have been **baptized in Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried** therefore with him **by baptism** into death, so that **as Christ was raised** from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” Rom. 6:3-5 (RSV)

WE ARE FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS

Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross we are forgiven of our sins.

Jesus said: “for this is **my blood** of the covenant, which **is poured out** for many for **the forgiveness of sins.**” Matt. 26:28 & Heb. 9:22 (RSV)

When someone **repents, believes and is baptized they are forgiven and remitted (separated) from their sins.** “**Repent and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of sins.**” Acts 2:38 (RSV)

Not only should we experience this, but Jesus exhorts us to share with others: “that repentance and **forgiveness of sins should be preached** in his name to all nations” Luke 24:45

OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED

Water Baptism confirms the fact that **our old man (or old sin nature) has been crucified (destroyed)** and we have received a new godly nature.

The Word of God says concerning Water Baptism:

*"We know that **our old self was crucified** with him **so that the sinful body might be destroyed**, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin."* Rom. 6:6-7 (RSV)

*"**I have been crucified with Christ** and no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* Gal. 2:20 (NIV)

*"So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**"* Rom. 6: 11 (RSV)

A CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

In the **Old Testament, God established circumcision** to be an outward work which signified **a change of heart and a new covenant relationship between the Jewish people and Himself.**

In the **New Testament, Water Baptism parallels this** and is required for all of God's people.

The Bible teaches: *"In him (Jesus) **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."* Col. 2:11-13 (NIV)

WATER BAPTISM AND THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What is the difference between Water Baptism and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

WATER BAPTISM

In obedience to Christ's command a **new Christian is immersed in water** in the name of the Lord. He is thus separated from his old sinful life and makes a commitment to serve Jesus.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

This occurs when someone is **immersed or filled with the** power of the **Holy Spirit**.

WHO DOES THE BAPTIZING?

WATER BAPTISM

Though **it is permissible for any Christian to baptize** another Christian in water (Matt. 28: 19), **the common practice is for the leadership of a local Church** to conduct a water baptism service. A baptism service allows other members of the new Christian's spiritual family to be present for this exciting milestone in his life.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus Christ is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:11) Spirit baptized Christians may encourage and pray with Christians desiring to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:17; 19:6

BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER

A Christian may be baptized in the Holy Spirit before, during, or after he is baptized in water. (Before -Acts 10:47-48; During - Acts 19:5-6; After - Acts 8: 12, 17)

HOW SHOULD I BE WATER BAPTIZED?

Jesus told His disciples to baptize in water *“in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Spirit**”*. Matt. 28:19.

In the **Book of Acts** Christians were water baptized in:

*“the name of **Jesus Christ**”* Acts 2:38

*“the name of the **Lord Jesus**”* Acts 8:16

*“the name of the **Lord**”* Acts 10:48

*“the name of the **Lord Jesus**”* Acts 19:5

Being **baptized in the name of our Lord** is an essential part of our baptism in water.

As in earthly marriage, when a bride takes the name of her groom, so also Christians are baptized **in the name of their heavenly bridegroom in water baptism**. II Cor. 11:2

IMMERSION OR SPRINKLING?

The word *baptism* comes from a root word which means the process of **immersion, submersion**, or to make whelmed (i.e. **fully wet**).

Jesus was immersed:

*“Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the **water**”.* Matt. 3:16

The Ethiopian eunuch was immersed by Phillip:

*“ ... and **they both went down into the water**, Phillip and the eunuch, and **he baptized him**. And when **they came up out of the water ...** ”*

Acts 8:38-39 (RSV)

SUMMARY

1. **All Christians should be baptized** in water.
2. Though we are **not saved by being baptized** in water, **God commands us** to do so.
3. Someone may be baptized in water after he has **repented and believed in Jesus**.
4. **Infant baptism is not scriptural**, but **older children** who have made a commitment to Christ **should be baptized**.
5. What happens when we **repent, believe** and are **water baptized**?
 - a. We identify with **Christ's death, burial and resurrection**.
 - b. We are **forgiven of our sins**.
 - c. Our **old man is crucified**.
 - d. We experience a **circumcision of the heart**.
6. In **water baptism** we are **immersed in water**; in the **baptism in the Holy Spirit** we are **immersed in the Spirit**.
7. **Any Christian** may baptize another Christian in water, but **Jesus** is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

8. We should be **baptized in the name of the Lord.**
9. **Immersion** is the scriptural pattern of water baptism.

CONCLUSION

Water Baptism was instituted by God to be an essential part of a Christian's foundation. **If you have not been water baptized you need to be.**

The Bible's final encouragement to you is:

"And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Acts 22:16 (RSV)



CAMPUS LOCATIONS

PORTLAND CAMPUS

9200 NE Fremont St
Portland, Oregon 97220

TIGARD CAMPUS

12244 SW Garden Pl
Tigard, Oregon 97223

MILL PLAIN CAMPUS

14311 SE Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington 98684

EUGENE CAMPUS

89780 N Game Farm Road
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