

(Acts 8:38-39)

Take note of the pattern:

- An adequate water supply was found
- Both men went down into the water
- They came up out of the water

The ideal Biblical method of water baptism is by immersion. The Greek word translated “baptized” in this passage of Scripture is the word “baptizō” (see Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance G907).

This word is defined as: “to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge... to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one’s self, bathe - to overwhelm”

Therefore, by definition, immersion is the Scriptural pattern for baptism. Of course, there may be situations where immersion is not possible. In such cases, be led by the Holy Spirit and glorify God.

“Believer’s Baptism” Simplified:

Based on the Bible (see previously reviewed passages), “Believer’s Baptism” should follow this pattern:

- After salvation by God’s grace through faith in Jesus’ death on the Cross for our sins
- The Christian believer should be immersed in water
- By a spiritually minded Christian
- This is an identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
- Baptism can also serve as a public proclamation of our new life in Jesus

“Believer’s Baptism” Final Thoughts:

Public baptisms should be considered. You might want to have as many people present as possible. Many of the baptisms in the Bible were public. The Ethiopian eunuch was an exception, but there were 3000 new believers on the day of Pentecost, with many others there as witnesses.

Why should you consider a public baptism?

- Your testimony of Jesus Christ: A baptismal service should include a clear message of the Gospel. By inviting family and friends to your baptism, they should have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Seriousness of your commitment: Your baptism will be a point of demonstration of how serious you are about being a disciple of Jesus.

Encourage the clear preaching of the Gospel at your baptism. This can be a wonderful time of sharing the joy of knowing Jesus with those you love.

Lastly, prepare for a life-long journey with Jesus. Baptism is not the end of the road... it is a public profession of commitment to follow Jesus for the rest of your life!

Take this commitment seriously, and God will stand with you in it!

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”
(Matthew 10:32)

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By: Robert Dallmann

“Of the doctrine of baptisms...” (Hebrews 6:2)

Confusion:

There is much confusion over the Biblical topic of “baptism”. As we can see from Hebrews 6:2 (cited above), there is more than one baptism mentioned in the Bible. In fact, there are eight or nine mentioned in the New Testament. Two or three of these include water baptisms.

This brief paper will focus on the two main water baptisms in the New Testament.

Reduce the Confusion:

We can reduce the level of confusion about these various “baptisms” by applying a simple “Four Question Test”. This method of confusion reduction is very quick and easy to use.

This test will quickly show you that any two baptisms are or are not the same baptism. Knowing the differences in the baptisms is the first CRITICAL step to understanding each baptism better.

So, here are the simple questions:

- 1) Who is doing the baptizing?

WATER BAPTISM FOR BELIEVERS

- 2) Who is being baptized?
 - 3) Into what are they being baptized?
 - 4) What is the purpose of this baptism?
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Water Baptisms Clarified:

The passage below clearly differentiates these two water baptisms in the New Testament. First there was “John's Baptism”, and after Jesus' resurrection came “Believer's Baptism”.

“And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. (4) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (5) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:3-5)

The sequence of events in this passage are easy to follow.

- The Apostle Paul came upon a group of “disciples”.
- Paul asks if they had received the Holy Spirit, and they said they had never heard of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul asks what they were baptized into.
- They responded that they were baptized into “John's Baptism”.
- Paul explained that “John's Baptism” was preparatory for the coming of Jesus.
- These disciples were then baptized in what we call “Believer's Baptism”.

This is the baptism that Jesus spoke of in the Great Commission.

Believer's Baptism:

We get the term “Believer's Baptism” from Philip's response to the question of the Ethiopian eunuch.

“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (37) And Philip said, IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THINE HEART, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:36-37)

The only requirement for “Believer's Baptism” is to have faith in Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection for our sins.

Baptism has only one prerequisite for validity... **YOU MUST BE SAVED!**

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” (Ephesians 2:8)

We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus. This is exactly what Philip told the Ethiopian... “If you believe with all your heart”. Thus “Believer's Baptism” is the only “water baptism” applicable for Christians. We believe, and THEN we are eligible for baptism in water.

Water Baptism and Salvation:

Some teach that baptism in water is required for salvation. This is **NOT** true. There are many places in the Bible that make this clear, perhaps the most evident is the salvation of Cornelius and his household.

Please refer to Acts chapter 10, where you will find the sequence of events as follows:

- Peter preached Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to the group. (Acts 10:39-40)
 - Peter preached faith in Jesus. (Acts 10:43)
 - The people were saved, and received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:44-46)
 - After witnessing the evidence of their salvation they were baptized in water. (Acts 10:47-48)
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Water Baptism IS Important:

While water baptism is NOT a requirement of salvation... it IS VERY important. Nowhere in the Bible is water baptism ever discouraged. In every recorded case of conversion to Jesus, it is both encouraged and administered.

“Believer's Baptism” is included with the final words of Jesus prior to ascending into Heaven. Thus, every Christian should be baptized in water AFTER salvation.

How Is “Believer's Baptism” Administered?

The answer to this question must be found in the Bible (as with all questions pertaining to spiritual truths.) Both water baptisms detailed in the Bible (“John's Baptism” and “Believer's Baptism”) are performed in similar manner; although, we must remember that they are not done for the same purpose.

The following passage presents a solid Bible-based approach to water baptism.

“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. (39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”