



## Doctrinal Clarity: Baptism

*"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38*

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The Greek word **baptizō** simply means to **immerse**, to **plunge**, to **saturate**.

The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizō* is a text from the **Greek poet and physician Nicander**, who lived about 200 B.C.

- It is a recipe for making pickles and uses two related but different words.
  - *The vegetable should first be 'dipped' (baptō) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizō) in the vinegar solution.*
- Myriad of other uses - a sword plunged into the ground ("baptized" into the ground), overwhelmed with calamity or grief, a sinking ship.

### **Some different usages of baptizō in the New Testament**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-2 ESV** - *1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea*

**Matthew 3:6, 11 ESV** -

*6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ... 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

**John 1:31, 33 ESV** - *31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." "...He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*

**Mark 10:38 ESV** - *38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"*

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit —**

- John **predicted** it: *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit"* (Matt 3:11).
- Jesus **promised** it: *"You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"* (Acts 1:5).
- Pentecost **delivered** it: *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:4).
- Paul **explained** it: *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"* (1 Corinthians 12:13).



### **Romans 6:3–4**

- When we're baptized into Christ, we're ***immersed into his accomplishments for us (death & resurrection)***, and the ultimate way we're baptized is through the Spirit, which then *animates and unites* us with Christ.
  - We're so ***united to him***, so ***identified with him***, that it's as though *we were dead with Him and we went into the grave with him*.

### **Baptism in Acts**

- Acts is *descriptive*, not *prescriptive*
- Luke is showing us how the gospel of Christ invaded all parts of the known world - and especially how it kept *reaching groups that no one expected to be included*.
- And along the way, these conversions happen in all kinds of different orders, settings, and circumstances.
  - **Acts 8** and **10-11** - the Samaritans and the house of Cornelius.

### **One Baptism**

***Ephesians 4:4-6*** | *"There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*

***1 Corinthians 1:13*** — ***"Were you baptized in the name of Paul?"*** (Paul's rhetorical horror - of course *not!* Only one name carries that authority.)

When the New Testament says we are ***baptized into the name of Jesus***, it is saying we are immersed into:

- **His person** — who he is, the Son of God, the risen Lord.
- **His work** — what he has done, his death and resurrection.

***Acts 10:48*** — ***"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."***

***Acts 19:5*** — ***"On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."***

***Acts 22:16*** — ***"Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name."***

When Peter said in Acts 2:38 — ***"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*** — he was inviting the listeners into the **ultimate baptism**, the **saving baptism**, the Spirit's **full immersion and identification into the work of Christ**.

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