

BAPTISM IN/WITH WATER

Baptism is both an outward and inward spiritual concept that demonstrates a believer's full acceptance of the Christian faith and identification with the ideals of the faith. Baptism is a symbolic practice or act that identifies a believer with the experiences of Christ's suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and spiritual endowment. In a nutshell it identifies a believer, with unique events in the ministry of Jesus Christ (Rm. 6:3; Cor. 12:13; Col. 2:13).

The word baptism derived from the Greek word baptizo means to bury. Therefore baptism symbolizes our being buried into Christ and all that He stands for and represents. In the New Testament of the Bible, there are two broad types of Baptism namely; **Baptism in/with water**, and **Baptism in/with the Holy Spirit** (Act. 10:44-48).

(a). Baptism In/With Water (Act. 8:36-39; 16:31-33). This is baptism done to identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christ was actually put to death, so the believer is put to death in all matters of sin and sinfulness through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:20). As Christ was fully buried in the tomb, the believer is totally (not partially by sprinkling or however) buried or immersed in water (Col. 2:12). As Christ resurrected from death and out of the tomb so the believer rises out of water at baptism to continue to live for God and His Christ in righteousness (Col. 2:12). Water baptism is a prerogative of the ministers of the Church and is performed by them.

(b). Baptism in/with the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) (Matt. 3:11; Act. 1:4-5, 8). This is baptism into the spiritual experiences of Christ, to bring the believer under the absolute influence and control of the Spirit of God. It is a way of burying a believer's self-will and personal decision and emotions under the overwhelming control of the Holy Spirit of God (Act. 2:1-4; 4:31; 5:17-29). Baptism in/with the Holy Spirit is an exclusive prerogative of the LORD Jesus Christ, and He grants the experience as He please (Matt. 3:11; Act. 10:44-47). The Holy Ghost baptism can also be granted by our Lord Jesus Christ through the laying on of hands of His genuine ministers who have had the Holy Ghost baptism themselves and have been endowed by Him to be channels of the baptism by the Lord (Act. 8:14-17).

Conventionally the water baptism usually comes before Holy Ghost baptism, but the Lord who searches the heart and knows the spiritual state of the human heart can grant otherwise (Act. 10:44-48).

The study continues with how to receive the two baptism.