



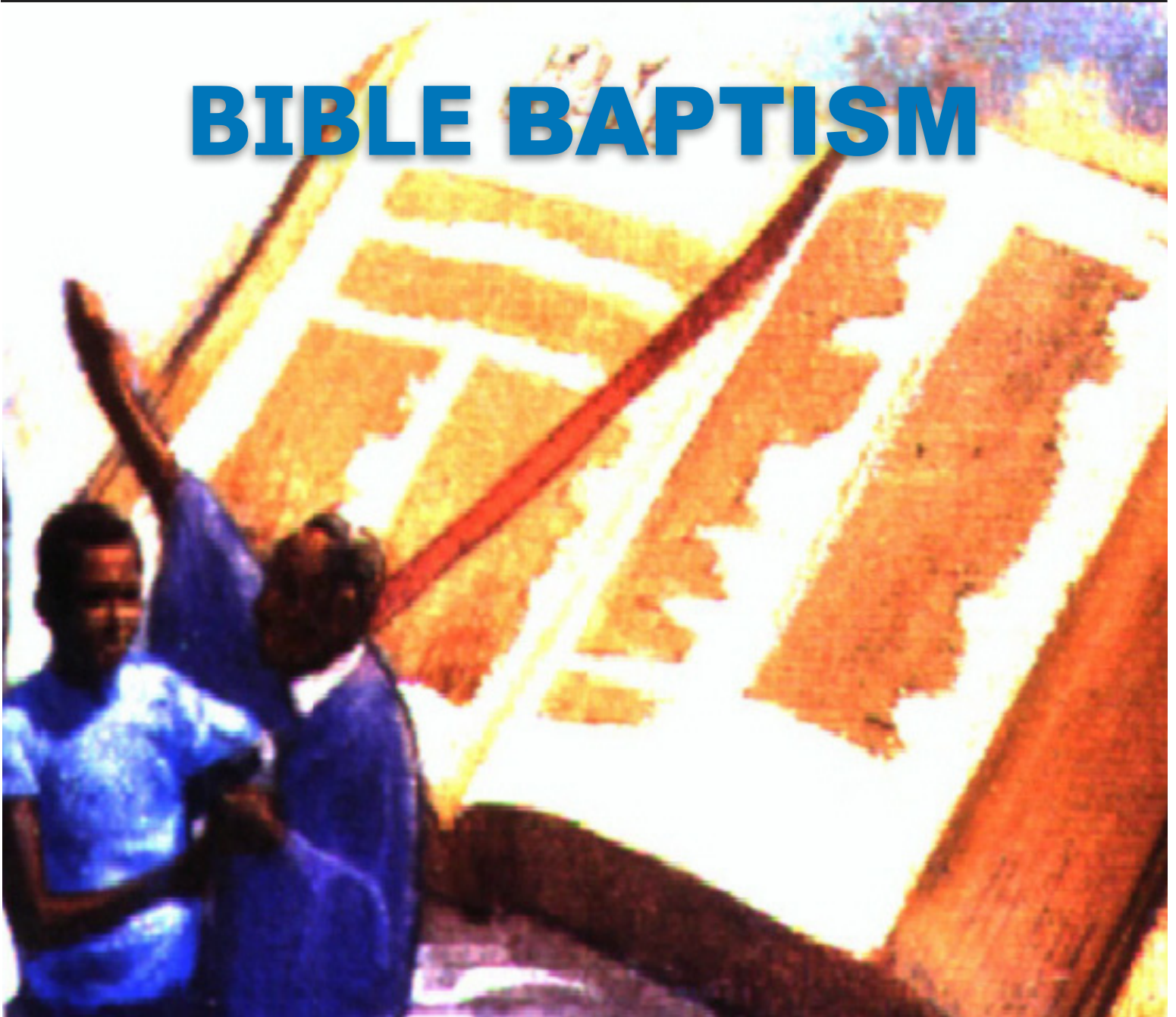
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THE ROCK OF AGES REVIVAL BIBLE SERIES

The Whole Truth About

BIBLE BAPTISM





What is the meaning of Bible Baptism? Can we just be baptized any way we wish? Why is baptism necessary? Can I serve God without it? Why was Jesus baptized? How many kinds of Baptisms are there? Does a person need to be baptized more than once? Does Baptism affect me personally? We will take a look at what the Bible says about this matter as we study the whole truth about Bible Baptism.

1. What did Jesus have to say about Baptism?

ANSWER:

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”



2. How many kinds of Christian Baptisms does the Bible recommend?



ANSWER:

Ephesians 4:5

“one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”

Note: Today there are all kinds of ways to be baptized—through the mail, over the phone, by rose petals, by the laying of hands and much more. The Word of God says there is only “one baptism” or one way to be baptized. All others are unacceptable to God

3. How was Jesus baptized?

ANSWER:

Mark 1:9, 10

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.”



Note: The Bible says that Jesus was baptized by John. It also tells us that Jesus came up out of the water. Baptism is something that is done for you it cannot be done by yourself. Secondly the Bible says that Jesus came up out of the water. In order to come up out of the water you have to go down into the water. Jesus was baptized as our example and He was baptized by immersion.

4. What does the word “baptize” mean?

ANSWER:

Mark 1:9, 10

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.”



Note: The Greek word for baptize in the Bible is “baptizo” it means submerge or immerse. To be baptized means we are buried or completely submerged under water. Sprinkling or pouring does not accomplish this.

5. How did the disciples baptize?

ANSWER:

Acts 8:38, 39

“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”



6. What must a person do to prepare for baptism?



a. Learn God's Requirements – Matthew 28:19, 20

ANSWER:

Matthew 28:19, 20

“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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

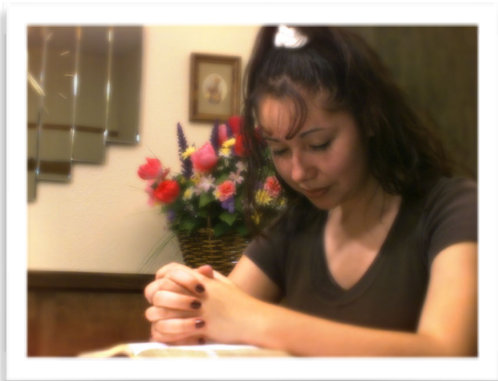


b. Believe the truth – Mark 16:16

ANSWER:

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”



c. Repent and forsake sin and experience conversion –
Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19

ANSWER:

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.”

Acts 3:19

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”

Note: It is time to go to the doctor when we know we are sick, as soon as we are aware of our illness. As long as we learn God’s requirements, believe the truth, repent, forsake sin, and experience conversion, we may be baptized so the disease of sin may be cured.

8. Is it possible to be saved and make it to heaven without being baptized?

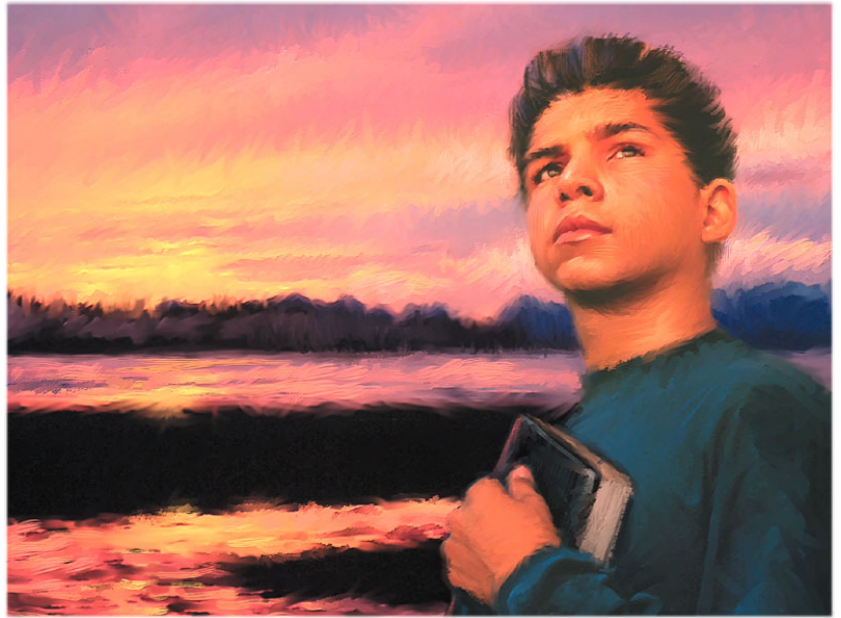
ANSWER:

John 3:3-7

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”



ANSWER:

Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

9. When does life begin spiritually?

ANSWER:

John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:”



10. When do we become born again?



ANSWER:

John 3:3-5

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

ANSWER:

Nícodemus said to Hím, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spírit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

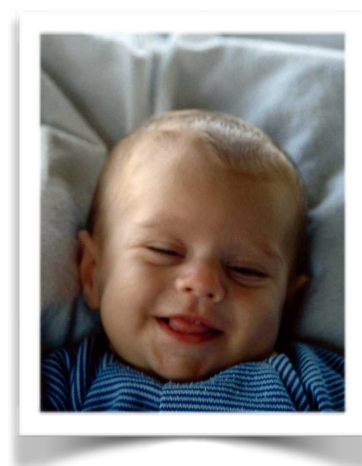
Note: Just as life is conceived in the womb, when a man or woman receives Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. They receive the Holy Spírit and spiritual life begins. They, however, are not born yet. It takes months before a baby is born. So a man who would be born again must learn how God wants him/her to live. They must repent and forsake sin and experience conversion. They must believe the truth, the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spírit live the way God has outlined in His Word. Then the person must be baptized. If a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour and never is baptized that is like a fetus who never comes forth from the womb. The Baby prolonged inside the mother will eventually die. So it is with the spiritually world. A person who is not baptized will die spiritually.

11. What are new Christians called?

ANSWER:

1 Peter 2:2

“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”



12. Will new Christians ever make mistakes,
if so what happens?

ANSWER:

1 John 1:8 -2:1

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.”



Note: Babies don't walk or talk when they are first born. It takes time. When it is time for them to learn how to walk and talk they will make mistakes but will learn from them. As it is in the physical world so it is in the spiritual.

13. What are newborn Christians called to do?

ANSWER:

2 Peter 3:18

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”



Note: Jesus said that we must be born again. We must start over. Because our characters were naturally inclined to do evil from birth (Ps. 51:5) we must allow God to prepare us to live in the new world by giving ourselves to Him and allowing Him to create in us a new nature. The sooner we start this regenerative process of growth the better. How do we do that? By being born again, which means being born of the spirit (acceptance of the gift of God in your life (His Spirit) to help you live right) and being born of water (Bible baptism). We must then grow through a relationship with God (prayer and faith) and through daily Bible study.

14. What is the meaning of Baptism?



Note: Baptism is a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we are baptized under the water, the eyes are closed and breath is suspended. It symbolizes that the old way we use to live without Jesus, is now dead. The “old man of sin” or the carnal nature is now buried because “it stinks”. When we are lifted out of the water the eyes are opened, breathing resumes; it symbolizes that we are resurrected to live a new way of life under the power of Jesus Christ.

ANSWER:

Romans 6:4-6

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

15. Is rebaptism ever necessary?

ANSWER:

Acts 19:1-5

“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?”

So 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.”



Note: The Bible records that these men having received truth that was not known to them previously, were rebaptized.

16. What else happens at baptism?

ANSWER:

Acts 2:41, 47

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Colossians 1:24

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,



Note: At baptism we officially start our lives with Jesus. We are born again and we are added to God's Church. Just like a baby needs nurturing at birth, so a newborn Christian needs nurturing to become part of the family of God.

Bible Baptism means we are baptized by immersion as Jesus was. Bible baptism is a symbol that we are married to Jesus. Baptism cannot change us. Only the life that receives Jesus can be changed. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection with Jesus (Gal 2:20). The old life is buried the new life is lived under the influence of God. As we learn the fundamentals of the Word and are empowered by the Spirit of God we must not delay the growth process by refusing baptism because when we do we reject God. (see Acts 22:16; Luke 7:30). Through Bible Baptism we wipe away our past and start afresh with God's power and are prepared to live in the new world. We become part of the church, the family of God where other Brothers and Sisters in Christ are trying to make heaven their home.

The story is told of an infidel who died after willing his farm to the devil. This gave the court cause for some head scratching, but after several months of deliberation it handed down the following decision: "It is decided that the best way to carry out the wish of the deceased is to allow the farm to grow weeds, the soil to erode, and the house and barn to rot. In our opinion, the best way to leave something to the devil is to do nothing."

Therein lies a truth. Few of us would ever admit to such infidelity, but many will procrastinate and postpone the great decisions of life and end up having willed our lives to the devil.

Have you left your life to the devil or have you decided to allow Jesus to lead in your life? Time may be running out to change the course of nature in our lives. If Jesus, who had never sinned, was baptized as an example how much more do we, who are sinful in nature, need Bible baptism? If so will you having learned God's will (all of His Commandments) and having previously accepted His Spirit to help you live right, declare publicly your love for Him by being baptized?

