

BIBLE SPOTLIGHT - on the THREE TYPES of BAPTISM, part 2 quotes

1 When Can Someone be Baptized?

“Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations, baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:19-20.

“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? 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.** 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.” Acts 8:36-38.

“...when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized”. Acts 8:12.

These verses reveal you must first be taught the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and then you must also believe with all your heart and intelligently consent to follow Jesus and these truths, before you can be baptized. After being baptized you are still to continue to be taught and learn more of the truths. This means that you do not need to know all of the truths contained in God’s word before you can be baptized.

2 How old do you need to be before you can be baptized?

“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And...**she was baptized, and her household**”. Acts 16:14-15.

“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, **believed on the Lord with all his house**; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, **and were baptized**.” Acts 18:8.

“And they spake unto him [the jailer] the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; **and was baptized, he and all his**, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, **believing in God with all his house**.” Acts 16:32-34.

These verses reveal that all who were in the households of Lydia, Crispus and the jailer, being a variety of age groups, were baptized because they heard and believed on the Lord and the truth as it was in Jesus.

One cannot be baptized without first being taught the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and then personally believing with all their heart and intelligently consenting to follow Jesus and these truths. This shows that there is a certain threshold or level of mental maturity that needs to occur before anyone can become a candidate for baptism. As soon as this level of mental maturity has been reached, and they can personally consent to do all of these necessary things for themselves, then at that time they can be baptized irregardless of what age this threshold of mental maturity is reached!

3 Does the Bible advocate being Re-baptized?

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? **And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 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. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” Acts 19:1-6.

These verses reveal that the Bible does support someone being re-baptized.

When should someone be re-baptized?

In this same Bible passage, these disciples of John were not followers of Jesus Christ. The only truths they knew were those limited to what John taught them, and thus they were unaware of the significantly greater truths connected with and through Jesus Christ. When someone hears and accepts significantly greater truths than what they previously knew which first led them to become baptized, then they need to be re-baptized upon these greater truths.

4 What Happens After Baptism?

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving....Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses”. Colossians 2:6-7, 12-13.

After baptism occurs you are now fully forgiven and cleansed from all your sins, and are now risen with Christ and therefore you now need to live the new life of Christ by walking in Him, and being ever more rooted, built up and established in the faith.

“Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, **Exact no more than that which is appointed you.** And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, **Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.**” Luke 3:12-14.

After baptism occurs, you are no longer to steal, or harm, or falsely accuse others. Or, in other words, you are no longer to break any of God’s commandments, but instead to keep all 10 of God’s commandments.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.** For he that is dead is freed from sin....Likewise **reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you...**But God be thanked, that ye...have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, **ye became the servants of righteousness....so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**” Romans 6:1-7, 11-14, 17-18.

After baptism, you are to no longer to live in your old man or old woman experience of sinning, but are now to continuously crucify self in order to live the new life of Christ in obedience to God. You would no longer yield yourself to serve Lucifer in being the servants of unrighteousness and sin, but instead you would yield yourself to God and continue to be the servants of righteousness and holiness.

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. **Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.**” Acts 9:17-20.

After baptism, you are to unite yourself with fellow disciples or brothers and sisters in Christ, and then you are to spread the gospel of Christ to all around you.

“...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7.

“Let us draw near [one another] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) **And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**” Hebrews 10:22-25.

5 What occurs after we are baptized and have joined in fellowship together with other brothers and sisters in Christ and are worshiping and praising God as one united and loving church family?

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,** whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **For the body is not one member, but many.**” 1 Corinthians 12:4-14.

After baptism occurs, and after we have united together as one with other members of Christ's body, then the Holy Spirit will give us one or more gifts or talents. These gifts and talents are not given for you to selfishly use these for your own benefit, but they are given for you to use in benefitting, edifying and building up your fellow brothers and sisters with whom you are united with.

No one who has been baptized into Christ is to remain inactive in their church group. You have been specifically chosen by the Holy Spirit to actively use your various gifts and talents which He has given you in helping to benefit, edify and build up one another in this most holy faith, and thereby contribute your part towards forming your fellow brothers and sisters into one united, harmonious, strong, happy and loving church group.

6 Using your gifts and talents to benefit and edify one another is directly connected with your salvation!

"Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: And I was afraid, and went and **hid thy talent in the earth**: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 25:24-30.

If you do not use your talent in edifying and benefitting our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, but choose instead to hide your talent in the earth, or to use it in the world, or should not use our talent at all, then you are an unprofitable and wicked servant that will be cast out and lost.