

## 6. IT IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION

Baptism is specifically stated as being necessary for **salvation** (1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5). In summary, the act of baptism is commanded by God, is said to put one in Christ where are all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), is an individual's appeal to God, washes away sins allowing God's forgiveness, is the beginning of a new life as a new creature and is necessary for salvation. If water baptism is not necessary for a Christian to do, then nothing is, including believing.

## WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT

Once other Faiths realized that water baptism had such a strong case for its necessity toward salvation, they began to argue that the baptism being commanded was not water, but Holy Spirit baptism. This is simply not so. This section will explore the evidence of what baptism is not, i.e.: the Spirit Baptism, just something done out of gratitude, or sprinkling rather than immersion.

### 1. IT IS NOT HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM:

In some of the examples of conversion, baptism in water is plainly specified (Acts 8:36; Acts 10:47). Since it is what people of the first century normally did, it must be THE baptism.

In some of the examples of conversion, either the baptism of the Holy Spirit had already been administered (Acts 10:44-48), or the individuals were baptized, but had never heard that there was a Holy Spirit baptism, and thus received it afterward (Acts 8:12-16; Acts 19:5-6). It could not be THE one baptism specified by Paul.

Holy Spirit baptism cannot be commanded. The Holy Spirit is poured out as HE wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). One cannot obey the command to be baptized in the Spirit for it is HIS choice alone.

Holy Spirit baptism was also manifested like tongues of fire and heard as a mighty wind (Acts 2:1-4). Since none of this is observed in conversions in this day (and not always in the first century), it is evidently not what was meant. And it is never defined as something "better felt than told."

If in Acts 10:48, being baptized in water is being baptized "In the name of Jesus Christ", then in Acts 2:38, being baptized "In the name of Jesus Christ" would also be water baptism. The "gift of the Holy Spirit" is also not Holy Spirit baptism for it was received afterward.

## WHAT BAPTISM IS

This section is concerned with explaining all that baptism is, trying to clarify all the misconceptions. Too many faiths believe that baptism is not necessary for salvation or anything else for that matter. What we hope to present here is the overwhelming evidence in New Testament Scripture for each individual soul's need to undergo immersion in water toward their salvation.

***Ephesians 4:3-6** -- Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one lord, one faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

### 1. IT IS SOMETHING ALL CONVERTS DID

When researching, one needs to consider whole contexts concerning the subject. Too often a proof-text is chosen, like Romans 10:9-10, to suggest one only needs to receive Jesus into the heart, without considering that Romans is written to people already converted. In the passages of Acts below, notice baptism in each case.

- A. 3000 Jews on Pentecost: **Acts 2:36-47**  
They were pierced to the heart (believed) and asked what to do. They were told to repent and be baptized "in the name" for forgiveness, then they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who gladly received the word were **baptized**.
- B. Simon and the Samaritans: **Acts 8:9-18**  
Philip was preaching the gospel and **baptizing**. Apostles had to come to give the Holy Spirit that was not yet received, but bestowed later by laying on of the apostles' hands.
- C. The Ethiopian Treasurer: **Acts 8:26-39**  
He was reading Isaiah. Philip preached Jesus to him. He stopped immediately at the first **water**, confessed, and was **baptized**.
- D. The Apostle Paul: **Acts 9:1-18; Acts 22:6-16; Acts 26:12-18**  
He was told to "arise, and be **baptized**, and wash away sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Then Ananias laid hands on him and he was filled with Holy Spirit.