



BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME

BIBLE STUDY



By Pastor Pete Wierzbicki



**“EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN OF WATER
AND OF THE SPIRIT, HE CANNOT ENTER
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”**

– JESUS CHRIST

— INTRODUCTION

Before we can discuss the subject of baptism, we need to examine the prerequisite to baptism: repentance.

The New Testament opens with the introduction of John the Baptist who in turn introduces Jesus Christ. The people were not ready for Jesus, so John's message to the people to prepare them for Jesus was strictly about their need for repentance.

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. [Matthew 3:1-3](#)

Shortly afterward, Jesus appears to the people and He is preaching the same message. Before you can truly know Jesus and walk with Him, He expects you to repent and turn from your sins.

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. [Mark 1:14-15](#)

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [Matthew 4:17](#)

Later, some people came to Jesus and told Him of the great atrocities the Galileans suffered. They assumed it was because they were such wicked people. Jesus rebukes them and essentially tells them to examine their own selves — He requires repentance of *them*.

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. [Luke 13:1-5](#)

Baptism in the New Testament is a prominent theme and we should not take it lightly. However, as we have seen, repentance must come first.

Did Jesus Also Talk About Baptism?

Yes he did. In fact, He made it essential to entering the kingdom of God.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. [John 3:3-5](#)

Jesus explains to Nicodemus, a religious man, that being religious is not good enough to get to heaven. You must be born again. Jesus tells us that being born again means being born of the water and of the Spirit.

Later on, after Jesus had ascended into heaven and His disciples began to preach the Gospel and build the church, they further understood that being born of the "water and the Spirit" meant one had to be baptized in Jesus' name and receive the Holy Ghost.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [Acts 2:38](#)

Is Baptism Required?

Yes, baptism is required, in fact it is a New Testament commandment. Jesus and the Apostle Peter absolutely required it.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [Mark 16:16](#)

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. [Acts 10:48](#)

What Is Baptism For?

Baptism serves four essential purposes in our life.

1. Baptism saves us.

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. [1 Peter 3:21](#)

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. [Acts 2:40-41](#)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [Mark 16:16](#)

2. Baptism remits or washes away our sins.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. [Acts 2:38-39](#)

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. [Acts 22:16](#)

3. Baptism enables us to identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It establishes the premise that we are dead to sin.

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. [Romans 6:3-6](#)

4. Baptism enters us into the New Covenant with God.

Circumcision was the requirement and the sign of a covenant relationship with God in the Old Testament. It was an absolute requirement. God said anyone who is not circumcised on the eighth day would be cut-off from the people. God nearly killed Moses for failing to circumcise his son.

Old Testament circumcision was a "type" or a "shadow" of better things to come. Many of these types and shadows have a spiritual fulfillment in the New Testament. We are no longer required to be circumcised in the flesh, but rather in the Spirit through baptism!

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 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 2:11-13](#)

How Is Baptism Performed?

The Biblical baptismal formula has the following five elements:

1. Baptism upon repentance. Baptism in the Bible comes after repentance — turning from your sins. True repentance is being sorry for your sins and making a commitment to God that you are to ready live your life according to the Bible. We saw this earlier in our study.
2. Baptism upon believing the Gospel. You must believe and comprehend the Gospel message. That's why we're having this study. Do you think an infant could understand what we're discussing here — do you think he or she could comprehend the Gospel? Of course not. That's why infants were never baptized in the Bible.

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. [Acts 8:12-13](#)
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](#)

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. [Acts 19:4-5](#)

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. [Acts 2:41](#)

Notice the people in the passage above not only believed, but they received the message with gladness. Repentance is something we can be excited about!

3. Baptism by full immersion in water; never sprinkling.

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. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. [Acts 8:38-39](#)

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. [John 3:23](#)
And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. [Mark 1:5](#)

4. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [Acts 2:38](#)
But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [Acts 8:12](#)

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [Acts 19:5](#)
And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. [Acts 22:16](#)

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. [1 Corinthians 6:11](#)

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. [Colossians 3:17](#)

5. Baptism by an Apostolic preacher; someone who is a man of God and called of God to preach this One God Apostolic doctrine.

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 8:38](#)

Why Do Some Churches Baptize In The Name Of The Father, The Son, And The Holy Ghost?

Jesus *did* command His disciples to baptize in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. However, it is very important that we understand the meaning of Jesus' command. What was He telling them? He did not ask the disciples to ceremoniously recite His command word for word. Rather, He was instructing them to baptize in *His* name.

We know this is true because when the disciples obeyed this very command by baptizing people, they said, "in the name of Jesus Christ" or "in the name of the Lord Jesus."

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5

There is just one God who has manifested Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, but His name is Jesus. Jesus instructs His disciples to use His *name*. Here we see another Gospel writer recording the words of Jesus and here Jesus plainly directs them to use *His* name.

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

Let's look at the Apostle Peter obeying this command —
Peter uses *His* name:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38

Much confusion about this can be attributed to the Catholic Church who changed the Biblical baptismal formula from "in the name of Jesus" as the Apostles baptized, to ceremoniously reciting the words of Jesus — which he never instructed His disciples to do.

The formula was changed in the second or third century by the Catholic Church about the time they erroneously declared God to be the "Holy Trinity." The historical record will confirm, and even the Catholics have admitted that they changed the baptismal formula from the name of Jesus to a formula intended to support their false concept of God.

BRITANNICA ENCYCLOPEDIA, 11TH edition, Vol 3, Pg 365-366

"The baptismal formula was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son, & Holy Ghost by the Catholic Church in the second century."

BRITANNICA ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol 3, Pg 82

"Everywhere in the oldest sources it states that baptism took place in the name of Jesus Christ."

CANNEY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION, Pg 53

"The early church always baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus until development of Trinity doctrine in the 2nd century."

CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol 2, Pg 263

"There has been a theological controversy over the question as to whether baptism in the name of Christ only was ever held valid. Certain texts in the New Testament have given rise to this difficulty. Thus St. Paul (Acts, xix) commands some disciples at Ephesus to be baptized in Christ's name: "They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." In Acts 10, we read that St. Peter ordered others to be baptized "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ". Those who were converted by Philip. (Acts, viii) "were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ", and above all we have the explicit command of the Prince of the Apostles: "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins (Acts, ii).

Owing to these texts some theologians have held that the Apostles baptized in the name of Christ only. St. Thomas, St. Bonaventure, and Albertus Magnus are invoked as authorities for this opinion, they declaring that the Apostles so acted by special dispensation.

Pope Nicholas replies that the baptism is to be held valid "if they were baptized, in the name of the supreme and undivided Trinity". Here the pope does not give baptism in the name of Christ only as an alternative."

HASTINGS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION, Vol 2, Pg 377

"Christian baptism was administered using the words 'In the name of Jesus'".

HASTINGS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION, Vol 2, Pg 378

"The use of a Trinitarian formula of any sort was not suggested in early Church history."

HASTINGS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION, Vol 2, Pg 389

"Baptism was always in the name of Lord Jesus until the time of Justin Martyr when Triune formula was used."

CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol 8

"Justin Martyr was one of the early Fathers of the Roman Catholic Church."

HASTINGS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION, Vol 2, Pg 377 on ACTS 2:38

"NAME was an ancient synonym for 'person'. Payment was always made in the name of some person referring ownership. Therefore one being baptized in Jesus Name became his personal property. 'Ye are Christ's.'"

NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, Vol 22, Pg 477

"The term 'Trinity' was originated by Tertullian, a Roman Catholic Church Father."

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION AND ETHICS, (1951), II, 384, 389

"The formula used was 'in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ' or some synonymous phrase; there is no evidence for the use of the trine name... The earliest form, represented in the Acts, was simple immersion...in water, the use of the name of the Lord, and the laying on of hands. To these were added in at various times and places which cannot be safely identified, (a) the trine name..."

INTERPRETERS DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE, (1962) I, 351

"The evidence ... suggests that baptism in early Christianity was administered, not in the threefold name, but 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.'"

A HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT (Otto Heick), (1965), I, 53

"At first baptism was administered in the name of Jesus, but gradually in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

HASTINGS DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE, (1898), I, 241

"[One explanation is that] the original form of words was 'into the name of Jesus Christ'. Baptism into the name of the Trinity was a later development."

THE NEW SCHAFF-HERZOG ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE, (1957), I, 435

"The New Testament knows only baptism in the name of Jesus ..., which still occurs even in the second and third centuries."

CANNEY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIONS, (1970), Pg 53

"Persons were baptized at first 'in the name of Jesus Christ' ... or 'in the name of the Lord Jesus.'... Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.'"

ENCYCLOPEDIA BIBLICA, (1899), I, 473

"It is natural to conclude that baptism was administered in the earliest times 'in the name of Jesus Christ,' or in that 'of the Lord Jesus.' This view is confirmed by the fact that the earliest forms of the baptismal confession appear to have been single – not triple, as was the later creed."

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, 11TH edition, (1910), Vol 2, Pg 365

"The Trinitarian formula and trine immersion were not uniformly used from the beginning... Bapti[sm] into the name of the Lord [was] the normal formula of the new Testament. In the 3rd century baptism in the name of Christ was still so wide spread that Pope Stephen, in opposition to Cyprian of Carthage, declared it to be valid."

Yes, it's unfortunate that men have tampered with the Word of God to support their own errant beliefs. However, you can still be baptized in the saving Name of Jesus just like in the Bible. We are an Apostolic Church that baptizes in the Name of Jesus!

What does the Bible have to say about man meddling with God's Word and replacing it with man-made traditions?

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. [Colossians 2:8](#)

What do I do after I'm baptized?

You will want to begin being faithful to church and to God, and you will need a pastor. Tell the man of God who baptized you that you want him to be your pastor. He will watch out for your soul and preach the Word of God to you. He will also begin to teach you and pray with you about receiving the Holy Ghost if you have not already done so. Your pastor will help to equip you in your walk with God — to be steadfast in the faith.

Let us draw near 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](#)

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. [Hebrews 13:17](#)

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. [1 Corinthians 1:21](#)

You will also want to study your Bible to learn about the One True God of the Bible, Jesus Christ. We have an excellent Bible study entitled, "The One God Bible Study" — be sure to ask about it.

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord. [Mark 12:29](#)

We invite you to come and worship with us as we worship God in Spirit and in Truth. We are an Apostolic Church that still believes in being saved just like in the Bible: repentance, baptism in Jesus' Name, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost with the sign of speaking in other tongues!

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. [John 4:24](#)