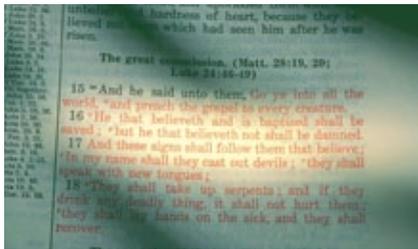


Purity & Power!

Amazing Facts
Study Guide

Are you tired of hurting your loved ones and wounding your conscience? Do you live in constant regret for your past mistakes? Have you ever wished you could take a bath and come out clean inside and out? Then we have great news for you ... you can! God has a plan that can totally wash all your sins away and supercharge your character—preposterous? Not at all! Christ says, “We are buried with him by baptism” (Romans 6:4). When you accept Christ, the old life dies and the Lord promises to forget all our sins! Not only that, He can help you overcome every sinful habit in your life. Did you know the cross is mentioned 28 times in the Bible, but baptism is mentioned 97 times? It must be pretty important then, and no wonder, because it signifies a new life with the haunting, sinful past buried and forgotten forever. Read the Bible’s amazing facts on this incredible subject ... you’ll never be the same!

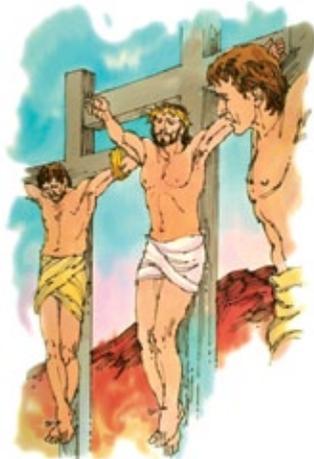


This verse makes it clear that baptism is necessary for salvation.

1. Is baptism really essential?

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

Answer: Yes, indeed! How could any language or words make it plainer?



Circumstances made it a human impossibility for the thief on the cross to be baptized.

2. But the thief on the cross was not baptized, so why should I be?

“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust” (Psalm 103:14).

Answer: Neither did he restore what he had stolen, as the Lord specifically directs in Ezekiel 33:15. God holds us accountable for what we can do, but He also recognizes the limitations of “dust.” He will not require a physical impossibility. Could the thief have come down from the cross, he immediately would have been baptized. Every person who is able should be baptized.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3. There are many ordinances called baptism. Isn't any one of these acceptable, provided a person is sincere and earnest about it?

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5).

Answer: No! There is only one true baptism. All other so-called baptisms are counterfeits.

Note: The devil’s “buffet” plan for baptism says, “Take your pick. The method of baptism doesn’t matter. It is the spirit that counts.” But the Bible says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5). It also says, “Obey the voice of the LORD which I speak to you” (Jeremiah 38:20).

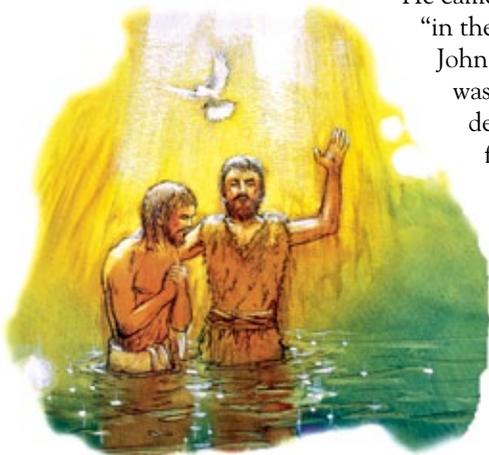
Only ONE method of baptism is biblical, not 14.

How many methods of baptism are biblical?

Trine Immersion 	Rose Petals
Oil 	Water
Affusion 	No Water
Wine 	Sprinkling
Telephone 	Mail
Holy Spirit Only 	Immersion
Salt 	Not Required

4. How was Jesus baptized?

“Jesus ... was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting” (Mark 1:9, 10).



Jesus was baptized by immersion.

Answer: By immersion! Notice that after the ordinance, He came “up out from the water.” Jesus was baptized “in the Jordan,” not on the bank, as many believe. John always found a place to baptize where “there was much water” (John 3:23), so it would be deep enough. The Bible commands us to follow Jesus’ example (1 Peter 2:21). Any baptism other than immersion breaks this command. The word “baptism” comes from the Greek word “baptizo.” It means “to dip under or submerge or immerse.” There are eight different Greek words in the New Testament used to describe the application of liquids. But among these various words—meaning to sprinkle, to pour, or to immerse—only the one meaning “to immerse” (baptizo) is used to describe baptism.

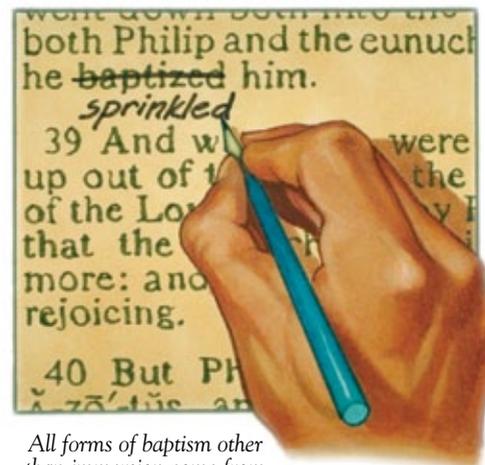
5. But didn’t the disciples or the apostles change the method of baptism?

“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” (Acts 8:38, 39).

Answer: No! Please notice that Philip, a leader in the early church, baptized the treasurer of Ethiopia by immersion precisely as John baptized Jesus. And the apostle Paul warned that any who teach contrary to what Jesus taught should be “accursed.” (Galatians 1:8). No person—no matter how godly—is authorized to change God’s words and commands.



Philip baptized the Ethiopian by immersion.



All forms of baptism other than immersion come from people rather than Scripture.

the commandment of God because of your tradition?” “Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition” (Matthew 15:3, 6). Worship that follows human teaching is “vain.” Just think of it! The sacred ordinance of baptism has been changed and made of little consequence during truth’s hazardous journey through the centuries. No wonder the Bible exhorts us to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

6. Since Jesus and the disciples baptized by immersion, who introduced these other so-called baptisms which exist today?

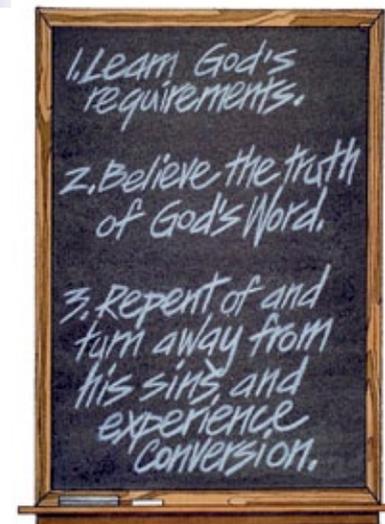
“And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

Answer: Misguided men introduced other forms of baptism in direct contradiction of God’s Word. Jesus says, “Why do you also transgress

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

Answer:

- Learn God’s requirements.** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them ... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19, 20).
- Believe the truth of God’s Word.** “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16).
- Repent of and turn away from his sins and experience conversion.** “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).



There are three simple things a person must do prior to baptism.

8. What is the meaning of baptism?

“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” (Romans 6:4-6).



When I am baptized, I affirm my belief in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Answer: It represents the believer following Christ into His death, burial, and resurrection. The symbolism is perfect and filled with deep meaning. In baptism the eyes are closed, hands are folded, and breath is suspended as in death.

Then comes burial in the water and resurrection from the watery grave to a new life in Christ. When raised from the water, the eyes open and the candidate begins

breathing again and mingles with friends—a complete likeness of resurrection. The great difference between Christianity and every other religion is simply the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. In these three acts is made possible all that God desires to do for us. To keep these three vital acts alive in the minds of Christians until the end of time, the Lord instituted baptism by immersion as a memorial. There is no symbolism of death, burial, and resurrection in other forms of baptism. Only immersion fulfills the meaning of Romans 6:4-6.



Death to sin. Old life buried in the waters. Raised a new person in Christ.

9. But a person shouldn't be baptized until he is certain he will never slip and fall, should he?

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).

Answer: This is like saying a baby should never try to walk until certain that he will never slip and fall. A Christian is a new-born “babe” in Christ. This is why the experience of conversion is called “the new birth.” The ugly, sinful past no longer exists for a child of God. A person’s sinful past is forgiven and forgotten by God at conversion. And baptism symbolizes the burial of that old life. We begin the Christian life as babies, rather than adults, and God judges us on our attitude and the trend of our life, rather than on a few slips and falls that we may experience as immature Christians.

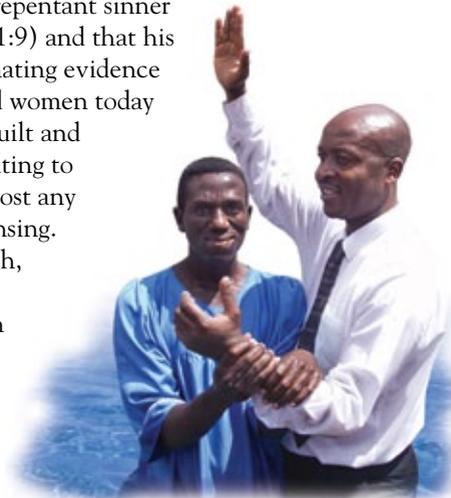


New Christians are like toddlers learning to walk. They sometimes slip and fall.

10. Why is baptism an urgent matter for a converted sinner?

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Answer: Baptism is a public testimony that the repentant sinner has been forgiven and cleansed by Jesus (1 John 1:9) and that his sinful, traitorous past is behind him. No incriminating evidence against a person exists after conversion. Men and women today stagger and struggle along under heavy loads of guilt and sin. This contamination and burden is so devastating to the human personality that people will go to almost any length to achieve a sense of forgiveness and cleansing. Many have been driven to the psychiatrist’s couch, where human beings earnestly attempt to assist other human beings. But the real help is found in coming to Christ, who says to all who approach Him, “I will; be thou clean.” Matthew 8:3. Not only does He cleanse, but He crucifies the old nature of sin within you. Burial in the water of baptism symbolizes the burial of the ugly corpse of the old sinful life. The ordinance is of utmost importance because it publicly represents the most stupendous provisions ever made for people.



Baptism is a glorious event because it symbolizes the burial of the old life of sin and the beginning of a new life in Christ.

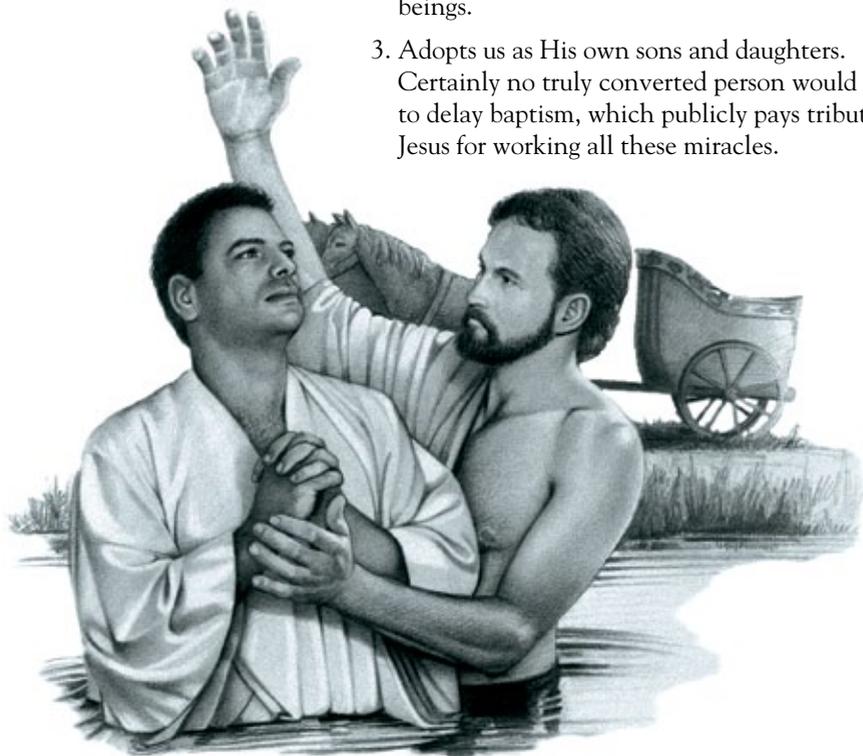
11. How long does it take to prepare for baptism?

Answer: That depends on the person. Some grasp things more quickly than others. But in most cases, preparation can be made in short order. Here are some Bible examples:

- A. **Ethiopian treasurer** (Acts 8:26-39)—baptized same day he heard truth.
- B. **Philippian jailer and his family** (Acts 16:23-34)—baptized same night they heard truth.
- C. **Saul of Tarsus** (Acts 9:1-18)—baptized three days after Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus.
- D. **Cornelius** (Acts 10:1-48)—baptized same day he heard truth.

At conversion, God:

1. Forgives and forgets our past.
2. Miraculously transforms us into new spiritual beings.
3. Adopts us as His own sons and daughters.
Certainly no truly converted person would want to delay baptism, which publicly pays tribute to Jesus for working all these miracles.



Philip baptized the Ethiopian treasurer the same day he accepted Christ as his Saviour.

12. How does God feel about the baptism of a converted person?



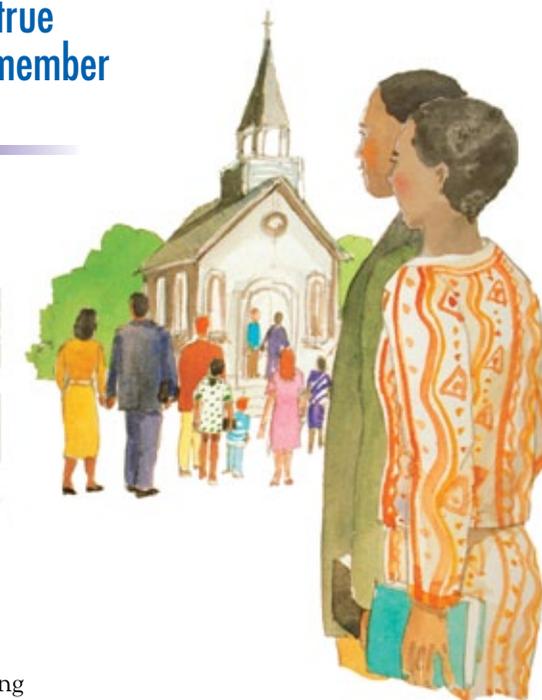
God is pleased with people who are baptized by immersion. Is He pleased with your baptism?

Answer: He said at His Son's baptism, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). So, today, God is well pleased when a person is baptized by immersion in harmony with His command. Those who love the Lord will always strive to please Him (1 John 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:1). Is God pleased with your baptism?

13. Can a person experience true baptism without becoming a member of God's church?

Answer: No! God clearly outlines this. Notice the steps:

- A. **All are called into one body.** "You were called in one body" (Colossians 3:15).
- B. **The church is the body.** "He is the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18).
- C. **We enter that body by baptism.** "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- D. **God's converted people are added to the church.** "The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).



Baptism is the official entry into God's church. Being baptized without joining God's church is unbiblical.

14. NOTICE FOUR THINGS THAT BAPTISM DOES NOT DO:

First:

Baptism itself does not change the heart of man; it is a symbol of the change that has taken place. A man might be baptized without faith, without repentance, and without a new heart. He might even be immersed after the example of Jesus, but he would simply come up a wet sinner instead of a dry one—still without faith, without repentance, without a new heart. Baptism cannot make a new person. Neither can it change or regenerate anyone. It is the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that changes the heart in conversion. One must be born of the Spirit as well as born of water.

Second:

Baptism does not necessarily make a person feel better. It doesn't necessarily change his feelings. Some people are disappointed because they do not feel different after baptism. Salvation is a matter not of feeling, but of faith and obedience.

Third:

Baptism does not remove temptations. The devil is not through with a person when he is baptized. But Jesus is the helper of every believer. He says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). No temptation will come without a way of escape. This is the promise of Scripture (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Fourth:

Baptism does not guarantee salvation. It is not a magical rite. Salvation comes only as a free gift from Jesus Christ when one experiences the new birth. Baptism is a symbol of true conversion, and unless conversion precedes baptism, the ceremony is meaningless.

15. Jesus asks you to be baptized as a symbol that your sins have been washed away. Would you like to plan for this sacred ordinance soon?

Your Answer: _____

If Jesus is speaking to you about baptism, do not put it off. Baptism is a public expression of your desire to follow God fully.



YOUR THOUGHT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1 Is it ever proper to be baptized more than once?

ANSWER: Yes, Acts 19:1-5 shows that the Bible endorses rebaptism in certain cases.

2 Should infants be baptized?

ANSWER: No one should be baptized unless he (1) knows the truth of God, (2) believes it, (3) has repented, and (4) has experienced conversion. No baby could possibly qualify here. No one has a right to baptize a baby. In fact, to do so completely disregards God's direct commands regarding baptism. Misguided men in the church years ago decreed that unbaptized babies are lost, but this is scripturally untrue. It defames God as an unjust tyrant who would destroy innocent infants who died, simply because unworthy parents failed to have baptism administered. Such a teaching is tragic beyond words. It is bad enough to sprinkle babies and call it baptism. It is infinitely worse to hold to the unscriptural concept that babies are lost eternally because careless parents failed to do their duty.

3 Isn't baptism just a matter of personal opinion?

ANSWER: Yes, but not your opinion or mine. It's Christ's opinion that matters. Christ says baptism is important to Him. "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). To refuse baptism is to refuse the direct counsel of God (Luke 7:29, 30).

4 How old should one be to qualify for baptism?

ANSWER: Old enough to understand the difference between wrongdoing and right-doing, and to make an intelligent decision to surrender to Christ and follow Him. Many children are ready for baptism at 9 or 10 years of age, some at 7 or 8. And some are not ready at 12 or 13. No age level is specified in the Bible, because children have different levels of experience and understanding. Some are ready for baptism earlier than others.

5 Can baptism in and of itself save you?

ANSWER: No. But refusing baptism can cause one to be lost, because it means disobedience. Salvation is for "to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9).

6 Isn't baptism of the Holy Spirit all that is necessary?

ANSWER: No. The Bible shows in Acts 10:44-48 that water baptism is necessary, even when the baptism of the Holy Spirit has preceded it.

7 Shouldn't we be baptized in Jesus' name only?

ANSWER: In Matthew 28:19, we are told to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These are Jesus' words, and we consider them very sacred. In the book of Acts, we find the new believers were baptized in the name of Jesus. Identifying Jesus as the Christ and Messiah was present truth for the people of that day; therefore, it was crucial for them to be baptized in His name. We believe it is very important for today as well. Combining the testimonies of Matthew with the book of Acts, we baptize people in the name of the Father, and the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. Following this method prevents exalting one Scripture above another.

8 There is one sin I do not wish to surrender. Should I be baptized?

ANSWER: Sometimes we can struggle with a particular sin and feel like we cannot overcome it. Don't despair! God wants you to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). God can give the victory. But you are not ready to be buried in the baptismal waters unless you can make that surrender, because the old life of sin is not dead. Only as we die to ourselves can we live for Christ.

9 Can you explain Galatians 3:27?

ANSWER: Here God compares baptism to marriage. The person who is baptized thus publicly acknowledges that he has taken Christ's name (Christian), just as a bride publicly announces the taking of her husband's name at the time of the wedding. In baptism, as with marriage, several rules always apply:

- It should never be entered into unless true love rules supreme.
- It should never be entered into unless the candidate has determined to be faithful through thick and thin.
- It should be approached with full understanding.
- It should not be unduly delayed.



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SUMMARY SHEET

Please read the Study Guide before completing this Summary Sheet. All answers to the questions below can be found in the Study Guide. Place a check by the correct answer. Numbers in parentheses (1) indicate the number of correct answers.

1. The Bible tells us there is one Lord, one faith, and (1)
 - 15 baptisms.
 - 5 baptisms.
 - 12 baptisms.
 - One baptism.
2. Did Jesus teach the necessity of baptism? (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
3. Jesus was baptized by (1)
 - Pouring.
 - Sprinkling.
 - Immersion.
4. The word "baptize" means to (1)
 - Be happy.
 - Sprinkle.
 - Pour.
 - Dip under, or immerse.
5. The many counterfeit baptisms of today were given to us by (1)
 - Christ.
 - The apostles.
 - Misguided men.
6. Mark the things a person should do to prepare for baptism: (4)
 - Read the Bible through five times.
 - Believe the truth.
 - Experience conversion.
 - Pray for 10 days straight.
 - Spend 40 days fasting.
 - Learn God's requirements.
 - Repent of and forsake sin.
7. Baptism is a symbol of (1)
 - The creation of the world.
 - The Bible.
 - Heaven.
 - Christ's death, burial, & resurrection.
 - The angels.
8. A newly baptized Christian is a (1)
 - Spiritual baby.
 - Spiritual adult.
9. Baptism, when entered into with prayer, sincerity, & understanding (1)
 - Publicly acknowledges conversion.
 - Means no more than going swimming.
 - Assures a person he will never be tempted again.
10. Is infant baptism scriptural? (1)
 - Yes.
 - No.
11. Some children are ready for baptism earlier than others. (1)
 - True.
 - False.
12. Which of the following statements are true about Bible baptism? (6)
 - The Bible compares baptism to marriage.
 - Holy Spirit baptism is all you need.
 - God won't accept men's teachings.
 - Jesus was baptized as an example for us.
 - There is an example of rebaptism in Scripture.
 - Baptism is a sign of a new birth.
 - You bury the old man in baptism.



<input type="checkbox"/> You should be baptized seven times. 13. Is it always necessary for a person to take many weeks or months to prepare for baptism? (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. 14. Can a person experience true baptism without becoming a	member of the church? (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. 15. I want to be baptized by immersion as soon as possible. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> I have been baptized by immersion.
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