

## PREPARING TO LIVE

### Water Baptism

---

## WATER BAPTISM

### LESSON # 5

The doctrine of baptisms is the third of the six foundation stones listed in Hebrews 6:1,2.

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement.”

#### KEY VERSE:

4 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. (Romans 6:4 NKJ)

#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of the lesson is for the student to understand and experience the significance of scriptural water baptism.

### I. INTRODUCTION OF THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

According to Hebrews 6:2; one of the foundation principles is the “doctrine of baptisms”, thus indicating that there is more than one baptism.

A. Baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ is one of three distinct baptisms. This “baptism” is synonymous with the salvation experience which occurs when one repents from his dead works and by faith received Christ as Savior and Lord.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13 NKJ)

B. Water baptism is another of the three baptisms referred to in Hebrews 6. New Testament Christians, baptizing by immersion, considered baptism an important part of their profession of faith. In fact, baptism was the normal way in which new believers gave public confession of their faith in Christ in Bible times. No Christian in Bible times would have omitted this step of obedience.

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48).

## PREPARING TO LIVE

### Water Baptism

---

C. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is another baptism experienced by New Testament believers. It was preached by the apostles as a baptism separate from the baptism into the Body of Christ and water baptism.

11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11 NKJ)

1. **List the three baptisms which comprise the "doctrine of baptisms" of Hebrews 6:2.**

---

---

---

## **II. WATER BAPTISM AS OBEDIENCE TO FAITH.**

Faith has been defined as an attitude of believing what God says, and then obeying Him by acting upon it. For the New Testament Christian, faith always has a natural, corresponding response.

18. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (James 2:8 NKJ)

Being baptized in water is such an act of obedience for every believer who has repented of his sin and confessed faith in Christ. The Bible teaches water baptism both by example and by direct commandment.

A. Jesus Himself was baptized in water.

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. (Luke 3:21 NKJ)

B. Jesus and the apostles commanded water baptism.

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 2:38 NKJ)

**PREPARING TO LIVE**

**Water Baptism**

---

19 "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,  
20 "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." Amen.  
(Matthew 28:19-20 NKJ)

Note: See Acts 2:41, Mark 16:16, 1 John 5:3, Acts 8:12,13, Acts 8:38, Acts 19:3-5.

**2. Give three reasons why all believers should be baptized in water.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**III. THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM**

A. Burial of the "old man."  
According to Ephesians 2:5, man because of his sinful nature, is "dead" in sin. If he repents of his sin and accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, he is then "quickened", or given a new life just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. Water baptism becomes an affirmation and reference point of this reality for the believer.

4 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. (Romans 6:4 NKJ)

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, (Colossians 2:11 NKJ)

**3. What is meant by the term "old man" and how does it relate to water baptism?**

---

---

---

---

---

**PREPARING TO LIVE**

**Water Baptism**

---

4. Explain how our experience in water baptism relates to Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection.

---

---

---

---

**IV. THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM**

In Romans 6:1-4 it becomes clear that God does not intend for His children to continue to sin. Water baptism enables the believer to separate himself from his “old man” which, according to Scripture, was dead in sin, and to walk in newness of life. According to this passage of Scripture, there are three steps in this transformation from a life dominated by sin to a life of righteousness before God: KNOW, RECKON, YIELD.

A. KNOW that your old man has been crucified with Christ and buried in water baptism.

6 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 6:6 NKJ)

B. RECKON – or count on the fact – that because it has been buried, your flesh will never rule over you again. You do not have to sin.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:11 NKJ)

C. YIELD, or give, yourself (body, mind, and spirit) not to sin and unrighteousness, but to God.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:13 NKJ)

**PREPARING TO LIVE**

**Water Baptism**

5. The salvation experience prepares the individual for Heaven. Why is water baptism necessary preparation for one's life on earth?

---

---

---

---

6. List the three steps (listed in Romans 6) which enable the believer to avoid sin and walk in the "newness of life".

---

---

---

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. Do you believe that water baptism is an essential part of a successful Christian life?

**YES OR NO**

2. Since you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior have you been baptized in water?

**YES OR NO**

3. When baptized, did you understand that the act of baptism was not only obedience, but actually the burial ground for the old man?

**YES OR NO**