

## "WAS MY BAPTISM EFFECTIVE?"

**Slide 1: INTRODUCTION** - Share evangelism story and/or jokes.

Christians should be the happiest people in the world. We have been blessed bountifully. We enjoy the physical blessings God has provided ([James 1:5-8](#)). Yet we also possess the additional spiritual blessings only found in Christ ([Eph. 1:3](#)). There is no one on earth who should be more content than a Christian. Then why do so many appear miserable? Why do Christians get depressed? Why do some lose hope? Why do some lose their faith? Many question and lose their belief in their salvation? Sometimes physical problems affect our thinking, yet more often when problems overwhelm us, we simply lose focus. **Is it by faith or feelings that we understand God's Plan of Salvation? "WAS MY BAPTISM EFFECTIVE?"**

Paul stated in [Gal. 3:26-27](#) that we are all children of God by our faith in Christ because we put Him on in baptism. As Christians we should be the most caring, sharing people around. As we continue our work in evangelism and the growth of the congregation here, we should definitely feel a confidence in the fact we are saved. When we out-reach to others, we all should be proud to share our conversion story.

We have the Master example with Christ when He was baptized ([Matt. 3:13-17](#)). But we always skip [Matt. 4:1](#) where it says he went out and was tempted. He too endured the same things we do.

### **Slide 2: Was my Baptism Scriptural?**

We must be born again. A man must be born of the water and of the Spirit or he cannot enter into the kingdom of God ([John 3:1-8](#)).

Note: Verse 8 - "...so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." The wind goes wherever it wants but we cannot tell. We should not limit God's power as the Spirit moves people its own way. We discern its presence by its effects, by consciousness of a new life and sense of a new world all around the newly born, but the Spirit-birth, like all the other operations of the Spirit, is hidden in God (Pulpit Commentary).

The Bible teaches that there is only one baptism just as we have one Lord and one faith ([Eph. 4:4-6](#)). We can no more say there can be different baptisms than there can be different Lords!

**Do you understand the true purpose of baptism? Baptism is Essential to Salvation!**

### **Slide 3: Elements of Scriptural Baptism:**

#### **A. PROPER MODE...**

1. Baptism in the New Testament was a burial - [Rom. 6:3-4](#); [Col. 2:12](#)
2. The Greek word "baptize" means "to immerse, to plunge, to dip"
3. "For 1300 years baptism was an immersion of the person under water."  
- Brenner (Catholic). **Pouring and sprinkling cannot apply.**

4. "Baptism means immersion; and it was immersion...Unless it had been so, Paul's analogical argument about our being buried with Christ in baptism would have had no meaning. Nothing could have been simpler than baptism in its first form. When a convert declared his faith in Christ, he was taken at once to the nearest pool or stream of water and plunged into it, and henceforward he was recognized as one of the Christian community." - **Cunningham** (Episcopalian)
- **The Biblical mode of baptism is immersion in water!**

**B. PROPER AUTHORITY -**

1. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ - [Acts 2:38](#); [10:48](#); [19:5](#)
  2. That is, by His authority, and not by the authority of someone else
  3. Jesus Himself commanded baptism to be in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit only - [Matt. 28:18-20](#)
- **The Biblical authority of baptism is from Jesus Christ and no other!**

**C. PROPER PURPOSE...**

1. Baptism was for the remission of sins - [Acts 2:38](#); [22:16](#)
  2. Baptism means we are buried with Christ into His death, raised up by God's glory, so we can walk in newness of life - [Rom. 6:3-4](#)
  3. "By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ..." [1 Cor. 12:13](#)
  4. "Baptism has been instituted that it should lead us to the blessings (of this death) and through such death to eternal life. Therefore, it is necessary that we should be baptized into Jesus Christ and His death." - **Martin Luther** (comment on [Rom. 6](#))
- **The Biblical purpose of baptism is for the remission of sins!**

**D. PROPER SUBJECT...**

1. Baptism was commanded of those capable of repentance - [Acts 2:37-38](#)
  2. Baptism was permitted for those who possessed faith - [Ac 8:37](#); cf. [Mark 16:15-16](#)
  3. What about infant baptism?
    - a. "It cannot be proved by the sacred Scriptures that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun by the first Christians after the apostles." - **Martin Luther**
- **The Biblical subject for baptism is a penitent believer.**

May we not conclude that our baptism lacks an essential element.

**Slide 4: Baptism is Effective if ...**

- You believed - [John 8:24](#)
- You repented - [Acts 17:30-31](#)
- You orally confessed Jesus as God's Son - [Rom. 10:8-10](#); [Acts 8:37](#)
- You were immersed in water during baptism - [Acts 8:36-39](#)

**Slide 5: Baptism is Effective if ...**

- You understood baptism was FOR the remission of sin - Acts 2:38; 22:16
- You understood the Lord would add you to the one, true Church upon

- your baptism - [Acts 2:47](#); [8:12](#)
- We must fully understand the purpose of baptism for it to be 100% effective.

**Slide 6: An Example of Being Baptized Again.**

**A. THE DISCIPLES AT EPHESUS...**

1. Paul found some "disciples" at Ephesus - [Acts 19:1](#)
  2. He inquired as to whether they received the Spirit when they believed - [Acts 19:2](#)
  3. From the context, we know Paul had in mind the miraculous reception of the Spirit by the laying on of hands by an apostle - [Acts 19:6-7](#); cf. [8:17-19](#)
  4. Their lack of knowledge regarding the Spirit made Paul question their baptism - [Acts 19:2-3a](#)
    - a. Christ commanded baptism in the name of the Holy Spirit - cf. [Matt. 28:19](#)
    - b. How could they have been scripturally baptized if they had not even heard of the Spirit?
  5. They had been baptized into John's baptism - [Acts 19:3b](#)
  6. Paul explains that John's baptism was to prepare people for Christ - [Acts 19:4](#)
  7. Hearing the difference, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus - [Acts 19:5](#)
- So we have an example of "re-baptism" in the New Testament

**B. REGARDING THEIR RE-BAPTISM...**

1. They had been previously "baptized" but their baptism was lacking
    - a. Even though it was immersion
    - b. Even though it was "for remission of sins" - cf. [Mark 1:4](#)
  2. But their baptism was not in the name of Jesus - [Acts 2:38](#); [10:48](#); [19:5](#)
- Because their baptism lacked an essential element, "re-baptism" was necessary!

**Slide 7: When is "Re-Baptism Necessary?"**

**A. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG MODE...**

1. Such as pouring or sprinkling
2. As practiced by Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists and others
3. Our baptism lacked the proper mode (immersion)

**B. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG AUTHORITY...**

1. If we were baptized by the authority of anyone other than Jesus
2. Such as Ellen G. White (Seventh Day Adventists), The Watch Tower Society (Jehovah's Witnesses), Joseph Smith (Mormons), and others
3. Our baptism was not by the only proper authority (Jesus Christ)

**C. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG PURPOSE...**

1. If we were baptized as a public confession of faith (thinking we were already saved)

2. As practiced by most Baptists, Assemblies of God and many others
3. Our baptism was not for the right purpose (remission of sins)

**D. IF OUR BAPTISM INVOLVED THE WRONG SUBJECTS...**

1. If when baptized we were not penitent believers
2. As is the case when people are baptized...
  - a. When all their friends are doing it
  - b. Because their spouse, fiancé, or parents are pressuring them to do it (and they do it to please them, not God)
  - c. As infants who are incapable of faith or repentance
3. Our baptism was lacking the right subjects (penitent believers)

**Slide 8: Baptism is important!**

- What if there is doubt ... then what? The necessity of baptism is quite clear.
- Many have this uncertainty in their mind. You are not alone!
- [2 Peter 1:10-11](#) = "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to **make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
- The physical act of baptism is such a simple thing
- [1 Peter 3:21-22](#) = "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."

**Slide 9-10: WAS MY BAPTISM EFFECTIVE?**

**My purpose has not been to unduly trouble one's assurance of salvation...**

- But to make sure we are sealed with the Holy spirit of promise - cf. [Ephesians 1:13-14](#) = "In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who<sup>[a]</sup> is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." [NKJV]
- To examine ourselves as to whether we are truly in the faith - cf. [2 Corinthians 13:5](#) = "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified." [NKJV]

Just as Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in [Acts 22:16](#): "...**why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**"

If we can assist you, do not hesitate to [let us know](#)...!