



GOING DEEPER

What does baptism mean?

Matt 28:18,19

Jesus says: "All authority on heaven and earth is given to me." He is talking here about His Kingship. When Jesus teaches the disciples that people can enter His Kingdom, He teaches them that people can be baptised and that they must obey everything which He has taught them. They clearly choose against the realm of satan and choose to live in Jesus' Kingdom.

It is a question of trusting in Jesus' words and obediently entering the way He is showing. Baptism brings people into the Kingdom of God where Jesus is King and where His principles are followed. Jesus Himself gives the greatest example in being baptised. He was not baptised because of His sin but simply did what the Father asked of Him.

Matt 3:13-15

What happens in the water?

Col 2:11-15

Baptism is not only suggested here as a symbolic event but is a life-changing decision which confirms your choice to accept and follow Jesus. You are making a choice, just as the Israelites did in leaving Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on their way to the promised land.

Jesus rose from the dead and lives eternally. This happens to us when we are born again and symbolically confirm this by being baptised. We leave the old life behind us and start to live in the new Kingdom in which we are dead to our former nature of sin.

What are we saying by being baptised?

Acts 2:38

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Jesus becomes your Christ, which means anointed King and Saviour. Jesus as King may now reign in your life. Through baptism you are saying: "I believe with all my heart that Jesus saves me from the power of satan and his realm."

Rom 10:10

Baptism is not merely a symbolic act. It is about acknowledging Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is about believing with your whole heart that Jesus died for you personally, as a sacrifice for your sin.

And that you, through this act of obedience, also truly receive forgiveness.

That is why baptism takes place in attendance of believers. It is namely a public declaration of faith that you wish to live in the Kingdom of Jesus. It is a statement: "I am made righteous!" It is very powerful, also for yourself, to speak out this confession.

What is the result of baptism?

Gal 3:7-9,27-29

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Acts 2:37-39

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Baptism in water is generally followed by being filled with the Holy Spirit. We saw this in the text when Jesus was baptised. The Holy Spirit came on Him as He came out the water. The Bible and experience shows that baptism in the Holy Spirit can even happen before being baptised in water!

Acts 10:44-47

Part 2 lesson 8 covered the Holy Spirit. If necessary, take another look at this lesson and open your heart up to receiving the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is for everyone who repents.

Eph 2 19-22

Through being born again we also become part of the family of God. God is our Father; other Christians become our brothers and sisters.

EXERCISE:



Through this study you may choose to become a disciple. That means very simply: looking at Jesus and doing what He did. This is an important step to take. Think about the cost and make your choice.



Ask your mentor what has happened in their life regarding baptism. Talk together about the best way in which to inform your family and friends that you are going to take this step.

PRINCIPLE 24

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Practical tips for the mentor

It is not about what you wear when you get baptised

Any place where there is enough water is a good place to baptise

Let people clearly understand and acknowledge their confession of belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

You do not have to have studied theology or have the title of pastor to baptise someone; baptism is about the confession of faith of the person being baptised