The Believer's Guide to Baptism

INTRODUCTION

Matt 28:18-20 – "[18] *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* [19] *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,* [20] *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

1. _____ in water

2. A _____ for every new believer, and everyone who witnesses it.

3. A display of the _____ _____ that is already present in the individual

i. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12

WHO IS BAPTISM FOR?

1. The ordinance of baptism is designed for believers who have:

- _____ of their sins, and have

- Put their _____ in Christ.

2. Those who are ready to enter into the _____ _____ of a local church

WHAT IS THE "BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"

- This is a term that was employed in the Pentecostal and subsequent Charismatic movements in 1901 and the 1960's, respectively.
- Described as having the elders of the church another believer who has gone through this baptism lay hands on you and pray for a "baptism" or "infilling" of the Spirit that would produce likely immediate demonstrations of one or more of the Gifts of the Spirit as recorded in Acts 2 and other places.

1. A "baptism of the Spirit" is not the mechanism that transforms one from an ordinary Christian into a super-Christian.

ii. A better way to think of and describe this experience is an "infilling of the Spirit" or a "new empowering for ministry."

1. There is a danger in creating some sort of tiered system for those who "really want God," and those who are "just simply saved."

2. A baptism of the Spirit does *not* always result in the speaking of tongues.

iii. **Jesus** – *Luke 4:1, 14*

iv. **Elizabeth** – *Luke 1:41-45*

v. **Zechariah** – *Luke 1:67-79*

vi. **Others** – *Acts 4:31*

3. The Holy Spirit displays His power as He wills (*1 Cor. 12:11*)

i. But He *will* display Himself! If He is not, then the individual needs to examine their hearts to see why there is a lack of the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. Such a lack could be explained by:

1. Fear to step out in faith
2. A lack of pressing into the Lord in prayer and Bible study
3. Holding on to old ways of living/ Living in mixture
4. Carrying on in secret sin
5. The Lord wants you to seek Him more definitively and earnestly

II. CONCLUSION

1. Every believer should undergo the act of being baptized by immersion in water because Christ has commanded every disciple to be baptized in His name.

i. While exceptions might exist for deathbed conversions, or some medical inability, immersion in water is the normative NT mode of baptism.

2. Likewise, every believer should seek to show evidence of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Answer Key:

1. **IMMERSION**
2. **INWARD FAITH**
3. **STRENGTH**
4. **REPENTED**
5. **FAITH**
6. **COVENANT COMMUNITY**