

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study

Elementary Principles of Christ
Principle #3 - The Doctrine of Baptisms

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020
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Hebrews 6:1-3 “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.” **NKJV**

The Six Elementary Principles of Christ: This is the core foundation upon which spiritual maturity is built. It is impossible to go higher in our walk with God without the basic foundations listed in Hebrews 6:1 having been established in our lives

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| 1. Repentance from dead works | 2. Faith toward God |
| 3. The doctrine of baptisms | 4. Laying on of hands |
| 5. Resurrection of the dead | 6. Eternal judgment |

In principle #2, we learned that about faith and its place in our salvation and righteousness. We also learned the differences between grace and work and the role of faith is

Principle #3 - The doctrine of baptisms: Notice that the word baptism is plural signifying that there are many types of baptism in the Bible. Some usages of the word baptism are figurative and not doctrinal. Examples are:

- Israel’s baptism into Moses - 1 Corinthians 10:1-3
- Baptism of Noah. 1 Peter 3:20-21
- Jesus’ baptism of suffering. Luke 12:49-51

There are three major doctrinal kinds of baptisms in the Bible

1. John’s baptism – baptism of repentance (obsolete)
2. The Christians Baptism - baptism in the name of Jesus (for believers)
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:1-6 - And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said to them, “**Into what then were you baptized?**” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

What is Baptism?

The phrase “to baptize” is transliterated into English from the Greek. When a word is transliterated, it is not defined, just put into English format. The Greek word is “baptizo” which becomes our word “baptize” means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge. Baptism means total immersion.

Elements of Baptism

- Baptized in or with – the element you are immersed in or with (water, Spirit)
- Baptized into or for – the end product of the baptism (repentance, Christ)

Baptism of John – With (in) Water into (for) repentance – in water into repentance (forgiveness of sin)

I. John’s Baptism

Matthew 3:7-11 - But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 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.

1. John’s baptism is WITH water and INTO repentance
2. Dispensational link between the law and gospel

Three keys of John’s Baptism

- Repentance
- Public confession of sin
- Evidence of a changed life – fruit of repentance

II. Christian Baptism (baptism into the Name of Jesus)

Matthew 3:13-17 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Baptism is for the fulfilment (Completeness) of our righteousness
- It is a symbol of transition into a new life

Romans 6:3-4 - Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- Identification with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection – it is a commitment
- Christian Baptism is your death sentence - it is an end to our own life and a beginning of a new life in Christ
- Your life no longer belongs to you
- A commitment to discipleship. Matthew 28:18-20.
- It is done IN water INTO Christ - Gal.3:27 - For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Conditions for the Christian baptism:

1. Must have heard the gospel
2. Repentance: Peter replied. Acts 2:38
3. Believe the gospel - Mark 16:16
4. Commitment to become a disciple - Matthew 28:19-20

III. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All the four gospels mention Jesus as the baptizer in the Holy Spirit – Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33

Matthew 3:11 - "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Acts 1:4b-5 "...wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:1-4 - When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"

- Holy Spirit baptism is immersion by outpouring
- Each person was filled individually
- They were filled to overflow with the outflow of speaking in other tongues

The Evidence of Baptism of the Holy Spirit - Speaking in other Tongues

- The day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4
- The household of Cornelius. Acts 10 :44-45
- The disciples in Ephesus. Acts 19:6-7

Purpose of Holy Spirit Baptism

- To receive supernatural power from God. Acts 1:8
- The gateway to moving in the gifts of the Spirit
- IN the Spirit INTO the Body. Corinthians 12:12-14

Requirements for receiving the Holy Spirit Baptism

1. Repent and believe. Acts 2:38
2. Be baptized. Acts 2:38
3. Be Thirsty. John 7:37–38 – "...Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.
4. Ask for it. Luke 11:13 - If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!
5. Act in faith. Release yourself, receive, drink (Acts 8:14–15; John 7:37)

Acts 2:37-39 - Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 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.** 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."