

*...repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ~Acts 2:38*

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save us but we must ultimately say yes and make the decision to follow Him.

16. **What about those who died without being baptized?**

Luke 23:42, 43

The thief on the cross was promised eternal life without being baptized, how can this be? The thief did not have the opportunity to be baptized but he likely would have had he the opportunity to do so.

17. **Why was Jesus baptized?** – Matthew 3:13-15

Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. In other words His baptism is accounted to those who, do to circumstances not permitting, are unable to be baptized. This would include prisoners and those in extreme health situations etc. He was also baptized for the same reason that God rested on the seventh day from work. He did this as an example to us. 1 John 2:6 says we are to follow the example of Christ.

**Supplement**

**What takes place at baptism?** – *Matthew 3:16, 17*

**The heavens were opened** = We receive access to God

**He saw** = Our spiritual eyes are now opened, giving us new understanding and perception

**The Spirit of God** = We recognize His leading

**Descending like a dove** = Peace gently enters our hearts

**A voice from Heaven** = We will begin to hear that still small voice

**My beloved son** = We are adopted into His royal family and become citizens of a different country

**I am well pleased** = God gives us complete acceptance and forgiveness.

Is it your desire to become part of Gods family? Is it your desire to be a member of God's church? If you would like more information on baptism please contact your local pastor or email your questions connectingthepeaces@gmail.com and we will do our best to help direct you in this life changing decision. May God bless you in your walk with Him.



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## **Cleansing the Leper**

### **Lesson 14**

***Introduction:***

Today we will look at yet another way in which Christ was our example. Let us take the time to study a door to a new life...baptism.

1. **What is God's desire?** – 1 Timothy 2:3, 4

God's desire is for all to be saved. This is, nonetheless, a decision we must make. God will never force His will on us.

2. **What must happen for one to inherit the hope of eternal life?** – John 3:5

You must be born of the Spirit *and* water.

3. **What does it mean to be born of the Spirit?**

John 16:8

The Spirit (Holy Spirit) convicts us of sin. It lets us know that we have sinned which makes us sinners in need of a Savior and leads us to repent and ask forgiveness of those sins. The Holy Spirit convicts us in our conscience (John 8:9).

4. **What does it mean to be born again of water?**

Acts 2:37, 38

When convicted, as these people were, the proper response is to repent and be baptized. They were born of the Spirit (convicted) then born of the water (water baptism).

5. **What is conviction like?** – John 3:8

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Conviction is the invisible work of the Holy Spirit. It becomes visible when a person makes a visible stand/expression of what God has done in their heart through the work of the Holy Spirit.

6. **What needs to take place before baptism?**

**Matthew 28:19** – A person needs to be taught Bible truth.

**Mark 16:16** – This person must believe the teachings of Jesus.

**Acts 2:38-41** – They need to respond to the work of God in their lives by repenting of their sins.

7. **Is it then possible for a baby to be baptized?**

Luke 2:25-28

Since a baby is not capable of learning and understanding Bible truth, and does not possess the ability to repent it would be impossible for a baby to fulfill the requirements preceding baptism. The Bible does, however, allow the dedicating of infants as was the case with Jesus.

8. **How did the following people fulfill the Bible order of being baptized?** -

**Acts 8:30-38** – Ethiopian Eunuch

**Acts 8:5, 12, 13** – Simon

**Acts 16:30-34** - Philippian Jailer

Each of these individuals were taught Bible truth, believed in what was being taught, and responded to the Spirit's conviction by saying yes to Him and sealed their commitment by baptism.

9. **What does baptism symbolize?** Romans 6:3-6

Baptism is symbolized as a death, burial, and resurrection. Death to sin, burial of an old life of sin, and a resurrection in a newness of life that is led by Jesus Christ. This commitment is comparable to a marriage ceremony.

10. **What is the proper method of baptism?** – John 3:23

John baptized where there was much water because it was needed for a complete submersion. The word baptize is Greek is baptize which means to submerge.

11. **How were Jesus and the Ethiopian Eunuch baptized?** – Mark 1:9-11, Acts 8:35-38

Jesus came up out of the water so He must have gone down into the water. The Ethiopian Eunuch also went down into the water and was immersed.

12. **How many methods of baptism are there?**

Ephesians 4:5

One Lord, one faith, one baptism. Baptism by submersion is the only method that makes sense, after all baptism represents a death, burial, and resurrection. Sprinkling water on someone does not symbolize any of those.

Methods other than immersion were not accepted by the church until the Council of Ravenna in A.D. 1311. The Roman Catholic Church built churches with baptistries for immersion into the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The leaning tower of Pisa in Italy, built in 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, was a church bell tower. Nearby, as part of the same ancient church, tourists can see a sunken baptistry 3 to 4 feet deep and 20 feet wide. Sprinkling evolved as a gradual compromise of God's Word. Today, God would have us return to His Word.

13. **Is re-baptism ever appropriate?** – Acts 19:1-5

**A** - These people learned significant, life-changing truth. They were already believers in repentance and salvation, but they had not yet heard the *present truth* for their day. This was that Jesus is the Messiah. Once they learned this they were re-baptized. Many people today who learn present truth for our day decide to be re-baptized to symbolize their dedication to Jesus and *all* His Word.

**B** – Romans 6:1-6 – Baptism represents death to the old, sinful self. If a person had once been baptized chooses to return to a life of flagrant sin, they need to be re-baptized once they return to God.

14. **How important is baptism?** – Acts 2:38

It is so important that the Bible says everybody should be baptized.

15. **If we have the opportunity to be baptized and choose not to can we be saved?** – Mark 16:15, 16

Since this is vitally linked to the process of salvation one cannot inherit eternal life without it. God will do everything He can to