

Baptism

What the Bible says?

v.2

**Who should
take baptism?**

Jesus Himself took baptism

Mat 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?" But Jesus answered him,

"Let it be this way for now, for this is the proper way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let him. **When Jesus had been baptized,** he immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly the heavens opened up for him,

and he saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove and coming
to rest on him. Then a voice from
heaven said, "This is my Son, whom
I love. I am pleased with him!" (Mar
1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)

Joh 1:31 I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

If the bride groom had taken baptism, how can bride refuse to follow Him?

(If Jesus had leaned upon His own reason, He would never have gone to John the Baptist for baptism. For His reason would have given Him many arguments against being baptized - especially since He had never sinned. John himself could not understand why Jesus needed to be baptized.

But Jesus laid aside the arguments of reason and simply obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:15). –From the book of Bro.Zac Poonen –A good foundation)

Disciples of Jesus were baptising people.

Joh 3:22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside. He spent some time there with them and began baptizing.

Joh 3:26 They went to John and told him, "Rabbi, the man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, the one about whom you testified-look, **he's baptizing, and all are going to him!**"

Joh 4:1-2 Now when Jesus realized that the Pharisees had heard **he was making and baptizing more disciples than John**- although it was not Jesus who did the baptizing but his disciples-

It is the command of the Lord

Mat 28:18-20 Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, as you go, disciple all the nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you each and every day until the end of the age."

Mar 16:15-16 Then he said to them, "As you go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who doesn't believe will be condemned.

Baptism needs true repentance

Act 2:38 -39 Peter answered them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one
of you, in the name of Jesus Christ
for the forgiveness of your sins.

Mar 1:4-5 John was baptizing in the wilderness, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. People from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were flocking to him, being **baptized by him while they confessed their sins**.

Luk 3:3 John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

Mat 3:5-8 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region along the Jordan began flocking to him,

being baptized by him in the Jordan River while they confessed their sins.

But when John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them, "You children of serpents! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit that is consistent with repentance!"

The one who gets baptised is supposed to bring forth fruit of his repentance. Many people gets baptised for the purpose of marriage and show off as a devotee without actual repentance. Here John says that baptism is invalid at the judgment without actual repentance.

We can see Simon in Samaria who was this kind of man. He was actually attracted by the miracles which was greater than his magical power. (Act 8:18 -24)This man got baptised just because of excitement and did not have true repentance and that was proved by his works and thoughts.

John's baptism was baptism of repentance and he saw people just trying to get baptized without actual repentance. When he saw that, he shouted on them. Still there are people who tries to do it. Baptism is only for those who repented for their sins and taken a decision to live a holy life.

Only the one who believes in Jesus

Mar 16:15-16 Then he said to them, "As you go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who doesn't believe will be condemned.

Act 8:36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look, there's some water. What keeps me from being baptized?"

Act 8:37 Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." He replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

The dead only can be buried

Rom 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into union with Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too

may live an entirely new life.

(This also makes it clear that only those in whom the old man is dead qualify for baptism -those who do not want to sin any more. For after all, only dead people can be buried! It's a crime to bury a man who is not dead! -from the book of Bro Zac Poonen-A good foundation)

A child cannot be baptised

Jesus said that the one believes and is baptised will be saved. How can a child believe before its baptism.

Can somebody believe on behalf of the child? If then, which verse allows us to do it?

what will they do when the child grows up rejects the gospel? Are they ready to go to hell for that child if he is not following God's way?

Act 16:33-34 is misused for the justification of child baptism. The 'entire family' does not mean that their infants also had taken baptism.

If we accept that, we are going against Mark 16:15-16 and no command can go against another. And no doctrines can be formed against the direct commands of Lord.

let us look at the verses.

Act 16:33-34 At that hour of the night he (the Jailor) took them and washed their wounds. Then he and his entire family were baptized immediately. He brought them upstairs into his house and set food before them, and he and everyone in his house were thrilled to be believers in God.

If some one says that baptism of the family included children? Then please answer the below questions.

Act 18:8 Now Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, **believed** in the Lord, along **with**

his whole family. Many Corinthians who heard Paul also believed and were **baptized.**

Do you think infants in the family also believed?

2Sa 14:7 And, behold, the whole family is risen against thy handmaid, and they say, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him for the life of his brother whom he slew, and so destroy the heir also.

Does the whole family means it includes the infants of family too?

Jos 22:11 And the children of Israel heard say, Behold, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar in the forefront of the land of Canaan, in the region about the Jordan, on the side that pertaineth to the children of Israel.

Do you think that small children
also bulit the altar?

Jdg 20:12 And the **tribes** of Israel
sent men through all the tribe of
Benjamin, saying, What wickedness
is this that is come to pass among
you?

Does it mean that the children in
tribe also sent men?

-(When babies were brought to Jesus, He laid His hands on their heads and blessed them.(See Mark 10:13-16). However, when repentant adults came to Him, He baptized them through His disciples (See Jn. 4:1,2).

But today what do we see in many
'churches'? Quite the opposite.
Babies are baptized; and hands are
laid on the heads of the adults
('confirmation')! This is the exact
opposite of what Jesus did.

Taken from the Book of Bro Zac
Poonen-(A good foundation)

Where should
we take
baptism?

There was deep water

Mat 3:6 and they were baptized of him in the **river Jordan**, confessing their sins.

Joh 3:23 John was also baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because **there was plenty of water** there. People kept coming and were being baptized,

Mat 3:16 When Jesus had been baptized, he immediately **came up out of the water.**

Act 8:38-39 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch **both went down into the water,** and Philip baptized him.

When they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing and did not see Philip again.

The original word used for baptism in the new testament is given here.

(βαπτίζω-baptizō-to *make whelmed* (that is, fully wet); used only (in the *New Testament*) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism)
Whelm: cover with water: to engulf or submerge something in water .

The word used for sprinkling of water is different which is not used for baptism.

(zâraq, *zaw-rak'* A primitive root; to *sprinkle (fluid or solid particles): - be here and there, scatter, sprinkle, strew.*)

If baptism is by sprinkling of water, why did John the Baptist chose a river instead of a well.

When should
we take
baptism?

Baptism should be taken immediately

Act 2:41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 persons were added to them.

Act 8:12-13 But when Philip proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ, men and women believed and were baptized.

Act 8:36-37 As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look, there's some water. What keeps me from being baptized?" *Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."* He replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Act 22:16 **What are you waiting for now? Get up, **be baptized**, and have your sins washed away as you call on his name.'**

Act 16:33 At that hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds. Then **he and his entire family were baptized immediately.**

Act 9:18 All at once something like scales fell from his (Saul's) eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Act 10:47-48 "No one can stop us from using water to baptize these people who have received the Holy Spirit in the same way that we did, can he?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Act 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Saul's baptism was the most delayed baptism- It took 3 days because he could not see. All other baptisms were done immediately, soon after believing.

In my place, I saw that our churches delay the baptisms for weeks which is not according to the word of God. We do not know when this person will pass away or when Christ will return. There is no other demands for baptism in word of God except true belief that Jesus is Son of God and Christ.

Many churches force people to leave many things like ornaments and wait until they become perfect like Jesus. You can see Simon the sorcerer, Ananias and sapphira were also baptised same time even though they were not truly converted.

Actually this growth to the perfection what they expect should take place after they join Church on completion of baptism. The one who believes is perfect at the same time by God's grace alone since the moment they believe. I believe that any one publically accept that Jesus is their Lord and repent for the sins are worthy to receive baptism.

Word of God is not asking for any other demands. What we follow is human ideas of righteousness and not of God's.

Act 15:10 So why do you test God by putting on the disciples' neck a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we could carry?

Act 15:11 We certainly believe that it is through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved, just as they are."

Act 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to place on you any burden but these essential requirements:

Act 15:29 to keep away from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from anything strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you avoid these things, you will prosper. Goodbye."

Circumcision was God's direct command to Abraham as an everlasting command. (Gen 17:13)
And here Paul fought against that and sought willingness from Holy Spirit and Holy Spirit also did not put any burden except the four things from old testament.

Why should we put more burden on believers which Holy Spirit never wanted. I believe that people should be baptised immediately and should not be held up for any reason.

How should we
take baptism?

It should be in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Mat 28:19 Therefore, as you go,
disciple all the nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit,

Some cults force people to take baptism in Jesus name because it is written `baptised in Jesus name'. in Acts. It is actually written to differentiate between baptisms of Jesus and John

which existed at the same time.(John 1:28,31, Acts 19:1-7). It is the direct command of the Lord to baptise only in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What is
baptism?

Buried and raised with Jesus

Col 2:12 When you were **buried with him in baptism**, you were also **raised with him** through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Rom 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into union with Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too may live an entirely new life.

Baptism symbolizes our union in the death and resurrection of Christ. When we go deep into the water, it shows that we are dead to this world and buried with Jesus and when we come up, it shows that we are resurrected with Jesus so that from now

on we will live for God as Jesus lived. **Can you symbolize this with sprinkling of water?** It does not make much difference to a person born in Christian religion. But just imagine about a non Christian who is taking baptism.

For the very reason he can be murdered any time there after. This is a very serious decision for a man. Not only he symbolizes with the death of Christ but actually he is ready to die for Christ. And that is what is meant by baptism.

Baptism helps in salvation.

1Pe 3:21 **Baptism**, which is symbolized by that water, now saves you also, not by removing dirt from the body, but **by asking God for a clear conscience based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ,**

The wages of sin is death. But Jesus died in our place. By symbolizing with the death of Jesus, we are also dead for the world and now you are free from eternal death and thus saved through baptism. Now we do not have a guilty conscience but we have a clear conscience with God.

It is for forgiveness of sins

Act 2:38 -39 Peter answered them,

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.

For this promise belongs to you and your children, as well as to all those who are far away, whom the Lord our God may call to himself."

By symbolizing with the death of Jesus, our sins are no more counted.

It washes away your sins

Act 22:16 What are you waiting for now? Get up, **be baptized, and have your sins washed away** as you call on his name.'

Bathing is for removing the dirt on the body that got stuck from the world. But baptism is for washing sins from the spirit through the blood of Jesus.

In baptism we are clothed with Christ

Gal 3:27 Indeed, all of you who were baptized into Christ **have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

Now God does not see us. When He looks at us, He can see only Jesus because we are protected by Jesus

from God's wrath as the clothe protects us from external environment. The world also starts seeing Christ over us. The one buried, resurrected, forgiven, saved is clothed Christ. Now any one attack you is not attacking you but he is attacking Jesus. That is why

when Jesus appeared to Saul, He answered that I am Jesus whom you persecute when Saul asked Him who are you. All stones fell on Stephen had actually hit Jesus before it hit Stephen.

The baptism of Jesus is different from baptism of John

Act 19:2-5 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered him, "No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." He then asked,

"Then into what were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The people who were baptised by John were again baptised in Jesus name. This shows the great importance of Christian baptism. This is not the continuation of John's baptism but it is a totally new one. If you have taken any baptism other than the one told by Jesus,

(child baptism, baptism under flag, baptism in only Jesus name) you should take the baptism of Jesus as it is told in Bible. But if you have taken the true baptism once and backslidden, you need not to take the baptism again but should repent and come back.

It is the first step of obedience

Mat 28:19 Therefore, as you go,
disciple all the nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you each and every day until the end of the age." It is your first step of obedience. It is followed by obedience to all the commandments.

(Baptism is slighted by some Christians as a trivial matter. Naaman initially despised Elisha's command to go and dip himself seven times in the River Jordan to be healed of his leprosy. But it was when he obeyed that simple command that he was healed (2 Kings 5:10-14). It is in little things that God tests our obedience. (from the book of Bro. Zac Poonen-A good foundation)

Opportunity where trinity comes together

Mat 3:16 When **Jesus** had been baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Suddenly the heavens opened up for him,

and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and coming to rest on him. Mat 3:17 Then a **voice from heaven** said, "**This is my Son**, whom I love. I am pleased with him!"

It is the one opportunity where you see trinity is coming together.

It pleases God

Mat 3:17 Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with him!"

It is public confession

There are people who gets baptised secretly and remain secretly as a believer. I do not believe that it is a true baptism. Because these people are not dead for their previous life. If you are afraid of society, Church, then why do you say a lie that you are dead for the world.

With the burial, we have no relation to the world except through Christ. Now we are not afraid of anything of this world. I know one man who received immersed baptism, but he brought his child to Church for child baptism! I wonder why did he take baptism if he did not believe in it.

Baptism make you worthy to receive Holy Spirit

Mar 1:9-11 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Act 2:38 -39 Peter answered them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one
of you, in the name of Jesus Christ
for the forgiveness of your sins. Then
you will receive the Holy Spirit as a
gift. For this promise belongs to you
and your children, as well as to all
those who are far away, whom the
Lord our God may call to himself."

Even though, the Holy Spirit baptism is followed by water baptism, we can see that some times Holy Spirit anoints people before water baptism. (Act 10:47-48) I have also seen this in Church.

He is God and He can anoint any one before and after baptism. But commonly we can teach that we are worthy to receive Holy Spirit after water baptism.

New testament
examples

Act 2:41 So those **who welcomed his message were baptized**, and that day about **3,000 persons** were added to them.

Act 8:12-13 But when Philip proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ,

men and women believed and were baptized. Even Simon believed, and after he was baptized he became devoted to Philip. He was amazed to see the signs and great miracles that were happening..

Act 8:35-39 Then Philip opened his mouth and, starting from this Scripture, told him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, "Look, there's some water."

What keeps me from being baptized?" *Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."* He replied, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* So he ordered the chariot to stop,

and Philip and the eunuch **both**
went down into the water, and
Philip baptized him. When **they**
came up out of the water, the Spirit
of the Lord snatched Philip away.
The eunuch went on his way
rejoicing and did not see Philip
again.

Act 10:47-48 "No one can stop us from using water to baptize these people who have received the Holy Spirit in the same way that we did, can he?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for several days.

Act 16:14-15 A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple goods from the city of Thyatira, was listening to us. She was a worshiper of God, and the Lord opened her heart to listen carefully to what was being said by Paul.

When she and her family were baptized, she urged us, "If you are convinced that I am a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she continued to insist that we do so.

Act 16:33-34 At that hour of the night he (the Jailer) took them and washed their wounds. Then he and his entire family were baptized immediately. He brought them upstairs into his house and set food before them, and he and everyone in his house were thrilled to be believers in God.

Act 18:8 Now Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, **believed** in the Lord, along **with his whole family**. Many Corinthians who heard Paul also believed and were **baptized**.

The sharing of good news without the message of baptism is not a complete good news. When Philip shared Gospel, same time he shared about baptism also.

That is why Eunuch after accepting the truth that Jesus is the Christ and He is the Son of God, wanted to get baptised. Everywhere people took baptism because the message included the message of baptism.

The one who truly believes will ask the evangelist to baptise him. If the evangelist has to force the believer to baptise, there is some problem exists truly with that person or with the message.

Who will not
take baptism?

Luk 7:30 But the Pharisees
and the experts in the law
rejected God's plan for
themselves by refusing to be
baptized by him. (like many of
us)

Are you not wondered to see that those who were expert in the law rejected God's plan but we see that in the present time also and not wondered as they are the followers of their predecessors.

Please write to me if I am wrongly quoting word of God. Also write to me if you have more suggestions to add.

your brother in Christ Jesus to tell you the truth.

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