

Five Truths of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

Five Keys to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God's spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

Mark 1:10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and **the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;**

Mark 16:16 He who **has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;** but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, **“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;** and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

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True Tracts

Do I Have to Be Baptized in Water to be Saved?

Does the Bible teach that you must be baptized in water to be saved? Understanding the meaning of baptism will greatly enhance your understanding of what God has done for you through the Cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

Ephesians 4:4-6a There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in **one hope** of your calling; [5] **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**, [6] **one God** and Father

What is Baptism?

During the time of Jesus, John the Baptist was at the Jordan River “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). Baptism was familiar to the Jews; it was known as the mikvah, a ritual bath of purification. John was teaching the Jews to turn to the coming Messiah and believe in Him.

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, **telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.**"

Today, there is a lot of different teaching about baptism. Often the discussion centers on the water – immersion or sprinkling. But, what does the Bible teach?

The broader question is, “Must a person be baptized in order to be saved?” The answer is, “Absolutely yes, and no.” Seem confusing? Salvation is, specifically, being baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ Jesus; this is a spiritual baptism and this is what saves you. Any form of water baptism, from a Biblical perspective, is a way to demonstrate physically what God did you for spiritually. Water baptism is, therefore, the physical picture of your spiritual baptism.

Acts 11:16b ... John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

Why Was Jesus Baptized?

Since John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance, why was Jesus baptized? Did He have anything to repent (change His mind about)? Certainly He did not have any sins to be forgiven. Some say that Jesus was baptized in order to consecrate His ministry. The Bible explains the real reason why Jesus was baptized.

Jesus went down into the water of the River Jordan and when He came up, the Holy Spirit, in the visible form of a dove, landed on Him (Mark 1:10). This was a physical picture of the Spirit of the Father joining as one with Jesus in His human spirit to give Him the power to accomplish the work that the Father had for Him.

Jesus, eternal God and creator, emptied Himself to live fully as a man while here on earth. He lived by faith - that is, Jesus lived by the power and direction of the Holy Spirit in Him, not by His own human power.

John 14:10b The words that I say to you **I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.**

As a Christian, you received this same Holy Spirit that Jesus did; the Holy Spirit is, therefore, your power to do the good works that the Father has prepared for you.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

The Real Meaning of Baptism

Water immersion does not save you; rather, it is the symbolic demonstration of the spiritual baptism that *does* save you.

Colossians 2:12 **having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

There is one baptism, and it is a baptism that every single believer receives.

Ephesians 4:5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism,**

Water baptism helps you to understand what the Cross and resurrection did for you. As you go down into the water, it is a picture of dying and being buried Christ; as you come up out of the water, it shows you being raised to a new life.

More specifically, God saves you by removing your old sinful nature (spirit) and replacing it with a brand new, clean heart. Then, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you to make you literally righteous by His indwelling presence. This is being baptized with the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to be born again, and this is what saves you.

Romans 6:4 Therefore **we have been buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**