



Baptisms

John's Baptism (Preparatory)

- The purpose of John's baptism is to prepare a person for salvation. **NIV Luke 7:29-30** (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)
- The Meaning of John's baptism is twofold: (1) We publicly repent of our sin – Mark 1:4; (2) We confess our sins and acknowledge our need of forgiveness – Mark 1:5
- The Mode of John's baptism was to dip the person under water (baptism means to dip under as seen in John baptizing Jesus recorded in Matthew 3:16)
- The testimony of the Holy Spirit and the saints has replaced the purpose of John's baptism. See John 15:26-27 and John 16:8-11

Application:

- We need to remember how important the "John the Baptist" ministry was in our life. It made us aware of sin.
- We need to do our part in the "John the Baptist" ministry to prepare others to receive Jesus as their savior, that is, help people see their sin.

Believer's Baptism (Revelatory)

- Purpose: Public revelation of the inner salvation by faith in Christ
- **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as **an appeal (pledge, eperotoma)** to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus **Christ**
- Meaning: The believer's baptism is our public commitment to the terms of our service for Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:21...εἰς ἕνα ἄνθρωπον Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν. The Greek word *eperotoma* means the following: "In every business contract there was a definite question and answer which made the contract binding. The question was, 'Do you accept the terms of this contract and bind yourself to observe them?' The technical word for that question and answer clause is *eperotoma* in Greek and *stipulation* in Latin. In baptism God said to the man coming out of heathenism: 'Do you accept the terms of My service? Do you accept the privileges and promises, and do you undertake its responsibilities and demands?' And

in the act of being baptized the man answered, ‘Yes’.” **William Barclay** in the Letters of James and Peter.

Terms of service we agree to when we are baptized:

- Privileges we have as believers: (1) Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23; (2) We are chosen by Jesus to bear much fruit that remains and to have answered prayer – John 15:16; (3) We have God’s mercy and help in our time of need - Hebrews 4:16
- Promises we have as believers: (1) We have eternal life – John 3:16; (2) We have power to do all He commands us to do – Ephesians 1:19-20; 3:20; Acts 1:8; (3) We have His provision – Matthew 6:33
- Responsibilities we have as believers: (1) We are to witness to others concerning salvation in Christ – Acts 1:8; (2) We are to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded – Matthew 28:19-20
- Demands we have as believers: (1) We are to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus – Matthew 16:24; (2) We are to be willing to lose our life for Jesus sake – Matthew 16:25; (3) We are to put Jesus first in all our relationships – Luke 14:26; (4) We are to be willing to give up all we have to be Jesus’ disciple – Luke 14:33

Mode: The mode of believer’s baptism is to be dipped under water as the Ethiopian eunuch was in Acts 8:38-39 “And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ **And when they came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”

Application:

- We need to remember the terms of service and fulfill them.
- We need to participate in the privileges, promises, responsibilities and demands we agreed to.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit (Salvatory)

- Purpose: The baptism with the Holy Spirit is to resource us with everything we need to be like Christ and to do His works.
- The resources we gain when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit are as follows: (1) Guaranteed salvation – Ephesians 1:13-14; (2) the power to be and do God’s will – Ephesians 1:19-20; Acts 1:8; (3) Guidance into all truth – John 16:13; (4) God’s

promptings to specific service – Acts 8:29; (5) We become an important part of the Body of Christ and have access to all the gifts of other parts of the Body – 1 Corinthians 12:13

Application: We are to remember the resources we have received by being baptized with the Holy Spirit are sufficient for being and doing all that Jesus commands. We can live secure knowing we have eternal life. We can trust God to guide us into all truth. We can act in faith expecting God to fulfill our act of faith with His power (2 Thessalonians 1:11). We can heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit to specific acts of service. We are to remember we are a significant part of the Body of Christ and need each part to accomplish the works Christ has assigned us (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 2:10)

Remembering the **Baptisms** will move us to:

- Testify along with the Holy Spirit to convict people of sin, righteousness and judgment and of their need for Christ's salvation.
- Remember the terms of our service for Christ and enjoy the privileges, claim the promises, fulfill the responsibilities, and meet the demands.
- Remember the resources we have been given by Christ and use them to complete the assignments God has given each of us.