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Today for Seeking Truth we are going to look at the thought of Baptism.

Sometimes people are baptized without even knowing what it is about.

Some may think it is like this picture with just some feet sticking out of the water – that you are taken off your feet and held under.

Some may think it is just the show of being dipped in water – that you need to reveal to others where you stand with God – but it is much more.

**CLICK**

Maybe you were baptized when you were an infant. I believe you can be baptized as an infant; it is more of a dedication though from the parents, a promise to raise their child up in the ways of God, to teach them of His promise. I also believe baptism holds more weight to someone that understands it.

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Baptism isn’t like you are helpless drowning, held under with your feet sticking out –

**CLICK**

Baptism releases you from what has been holding you down.. Like this picture.

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Where did baptism begin...?

In Leviticus 15 & 16:4, 24 we see a rite of immersion – this rite was thought to be a ritual for maintaining purity. Chapter 16 speaks of cleaning rituals for the Day of Atonement – which was especially for priests. If you read chapter 15 it was more or less – you need to take a bath – because of the discharge coming from your body – (this was talking about various issues like diarrhea, etc…)

During the first century AD there were certain groups within Judaism that would require converts to Judaism to be circumcised and immersed in a ritual bath before being accepted into the community. (Antiquities, 20.3-4)

In the NT – You hear how important it was as a rite to remove impurities… Matt 15 Jesus – was confronted by the Pharisees and showed them that it isn’t the water rite that cleans – the tradition of cleaning before eating was just that- a tradition. Jesus showed the Pharisees in Chapter 15 how breaking the command of God for the sake of a tradition is wrong.

Josephus wrote how Jews practiced immersion in ritual baths – before they could enter the temple or participate in its services during the major festivals. (Wars, 1.11.6)

***CLICK***

There has been several mikveh’s or Jewish ritual baths - excavated in Jerusalem, they had to hold 60 gallons of water and are deep enough to completely immerse the body per Rabbinical law (Antiquities, 18.5.2)

The word Baptism is not mentioned until the NT – “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ” (Mt 3:3) John because of him being the forerunner of Christ initiated baptism as a way of showing repentance.

But John stated this in Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

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**Mark 1:1-13 (Webster)**

**1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God;**

**2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee;**

**3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

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**4 John was baptizing in the wilderness, and preaching the baptism of repentance, for the remission of sins.**

**5 And there went out to him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.**

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**6 And John was clothed with camels hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he ate locusts and wild honey;**

**7 And preached, saying, There cometh after me one mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.**

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**8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

**9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth to Galilee, and was baptized by John in Jordan.**

**10 And immediately coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.**

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**11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

**12 And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness.**

**13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days tempted by Satan: and was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.**

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In Mark it said that John baptized by submersion for the remission of sin, a baptism of repentance. We don’t hear about repent that much anymore but it is the beginning of our growth as a Christian. To know that you have sinned and understand you need to be cleansed is the first step. (You can only be forgiven through Jesus Christ) John said that he baptized with water and that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did not need to be cleansed from sin, did He? No, He was without sin.

But this occasion was paramount to the New Covenant. Jesus was the first to have the Holy Spirit descend on Him. Jesus was the cornerstone to this “New Way”. We saw the Trinity in action in these verses. We were shown that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is so important that the Son of God Himself was the first to be baptized.

What happened after Jesus was baptized? He was driven into the wilderness… tempted by Satan, he was with the wild beasts, then the angels ministered to Him.

We may be driven to the wilderness, tempted, put into situations of temptation right after baptism- it may even be stronger than before. The hope we have though is that the Holy Spirit is with us.

But lets see what some words actually mean…

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**This verse is packed with explanation.**

***CLICK***

**We start with *Baptizo* (bap-tid'-zo); is more of a verb… action word.  
baptivzw** ***Baptizo*** (bap-tid'-zo);   
Word Origin: Greek,   
from a derivative of (911)

1. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)
2. to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
3. to overwhelm

Not to be confused with 911, bapto. The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped'(bapto) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g. Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptised shall be saved'.Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.

***CLICK***

***Baptisma* (bap'-tis-mah); is a noun  
immersion, submersion**

**bavptisma** ***Baptisma*** (bap'-tis-mah);   
Word Origin: Greek, Noun Neuter   
from (907)

1. immersion, submersion
   1. of calamities and afflictions with which one is quite overwhelmed
   2. of John's baptism, that purification rite by which men on confessing their sins were bound to spiritual reformation, obtained the pardon of their past sins and became qualified for the benefits of the Messiah's kingdom soon to be set up. This was valid Christian baptism, as this was the only baptism the apostles received and it is not recorded anywhere that they were ever rebaptised after Pentecost.
   3. of Christian baptism; a rite of immersion in water as commanded by Christ, by which one after confessing his sins and professing his faith in Christ, having been born again by the Holy Spirit unto a new life, identifies publicly with the fellowship of Christ and the church.

In Rom. 6:3 Paul states we are "baptized unto death" meaning that we are not only dead to our former ways, but they are buried. To return to them is as unthinkable for a Christian as for one to dig up a dead corpse! In Moslem countries a new believer has little trouble with Moslems until he is publicly baptized. It is then, that the Moslems' know he means business, and then the persecution starts. See also discussion of baptism under No. 907.

***CLICK***

repentance

**metavnoia** ***Metanoia*** (met-an'-oy-ah);   
Word Origin: Greek, Noun Feminine   
from (3340)

a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents, of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done

***CLICK***

Remission

Aphesis: 859

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| --- |
| **a[fesiß** ***Aphesis*** (af'-es-is);  Word Origin: Greek, Noun Feminine  from (863)   1. release from bondage or imprisonment 2. forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty |

Think about the pickle – John’s Baptism was a foreshadowing of a baptism to come – the baptism of the Holy Spirit – is kind of like vinegar but smells much better. The Holy Spirit will change you inside and out.

**Are we saved through the rite or work of baptism?**

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**Ephesians 2:**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Romans 3:**

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

**Titus 3:**

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Hearing these verses we see that we are Saved only by Faith in Christ Jesus…**

(for reference if someone asks about being born of water to enter the kingdom – Jesus had been recently baptized with Holy Spirit – but the baptism of repentance was widely known from John the Baptism)

### John 3:1-15

### The New Birth

**3**Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; **2**this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26123a)]signs that You do unless God is with him.” **3**Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26124b)]again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**4**Nicodemus \*said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” **5**Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7**Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26128c)]again.’ **8**The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

**9**Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” **10**Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? **11**Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. **12**If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13**No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. **14**As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; **15**so that whoever [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+3&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26136d)]believes will in Him have eternal life.

Some ask about the baptism of the Spirit?

***CLICK***

**Acts 8:**

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**So its not the dipping in water – that gives you the Holy Spirit. And it is not just by the laying on of hands – if you look to verse 15 – we see how someone receives the Holy Spirit.**

15 who, when they had come down, **prayed for them that they might receive** the Holy Spirit.

**If you have a doubt that the Holy Spirit is in your soul – hear this prayer and expect God to move.**

**PRAY NOW**

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**Romans 6:3-12**

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

**Baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death. (our sin dies) Just as He was resurrected, we are also as a new person. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us, comfort us, help us to come closer to God. We become moldable clay again.**

Baptism is repentance, a washing of your soul, a new beginning, by the laying on of hands and through prayer the Holy Spirit enters your life and begins to clean house. As you come closer to God things become more apparent. You see things in a different light. Because you are following Light.

**Baptism is an outward showing of an inward change. It shows others and is a public display of our faith in Christ.**

Taking that step of Baptism is an outward showing of faith that God will bless – it is a commitment to follow Him even when there are things that you may not understand. It is seeking God with all your heart – and when you do so – you find Him.

**Baptism is the pickling of our soul with the Holy Spirit. Something that changes you inside and out.**

If you have not already – please consider taking this step-in faith and show others the love you have for God. This dip in water will ignite the fire in your heart. The Holy Spirit will bring the accelerant.