

Why be Baptized by Immersion? Aren't We Saved by Grace alone?

The main reason why we should be Baptized is that it is a commandment of God. Even Jesus had to be Baptized in order to fulfill all righteousness:

Matthew 3:13 *Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

2 Nephi 13:7 - ¶*And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.*

Even John struggled with Jesus needing Baptism. It wasn't because Jesus had any sin that needed washed away but the key point was Jesus desired to teach us by example. Remember it was not until Jesus Himself was baptized that the Holy Ghost fell upon Him in the form of a Dove and a voice from Heaven authenticating the act, then right after this Jesus began His ministry. Even after Baptism this is not all, we must endure unto the end to be saved.

Moroni 10:29 *Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.*

There is an important symbolism that gets lost if baptism gets disregarded:

Romans 6:4 - *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Here we see baptism is a type and shadow of the death of Christ and rising again a new creature. So what of infants, little children or those who never had the opportunity to know the Gospel and repent? How can they be saved then without baptism? The Bible alludes to this in several places where God makes allowances for those who sin in their ignorance. The Book of Mormon addresses this question in the plainest of terms:

Moroni 8:10 *And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. 11 Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and baptism unto they which are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children: and their little children need no repentance, neither baptism.*

Moroni 8:16 *For awful is the wickedness to suppose that God saveth one child because of baptism, and the other must perish because he hath no baptism.*

Moroni 8:25 *For behold that all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the law. 26 For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, can not repent; and unto such baptism availeth nothing. 27 But it is mockery before God, denying the mercies of Christ, and the power of his Holy Spirit, and putting trust in dead works.*

As we can see Infants and those who were without the Law are covered by the Blood of Christ and it is awful wickedness to believe God would send such to hell if they were never baptized. Even accountable people should not be baptized unless they are willing to believe in Christ and repent of their sins otherwise they risk being baptized unworthily. So once baptized can a person fall away and still expect salvation? No, as was repeatedly taught in the both Bible and Book of Mormon one must also endure unto the end.

Hebrews 6:4 *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*