

Belief #6 **Salvation, Water Baptism, Communion, and Baptism by Fire (The Holy Spirit)**

We believe in four sacred acts of faith commanded and modeled by Jesus Christ. Salvation is the foundational act — the new birth by grace through faith in Jesus Christ that begins the Christian life. Water Baptism is the outward declaration of an inward transformation — a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Communion is the regular remembrance of Christ's body broken and blood shed for our sins, proclaimed until he returns. Baptism by Fire — the Baptism of the Holy Spirit — is available to all believers, empowering them for service, witness, and the operation of spiritual gifts.

Reason 1 Salvation — the new birth by grace through faith

Salvation is the cornerstone of the Christian life — the moment a person turns from sin, places their faith in Jesus Christ, and is born again by the Spirit of God. It is not earned by works but received as a free gift of God's grace. This new birth transforms the believer from the inside out and marks the beginning of eternal life.

John 3:3

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'"

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Ephesians 2:8–9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 2 Jesus commanded water baptism as part of the Great Commission

Baptism is not an optional add-on to the Christian life — it was specifically included in the Great Commission. Jesus commanded his followers to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, making it a foundational act of obedience for every believer.

Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

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Romans 6:3–4

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

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Reason 3 Jesus instituted Communion as a perpetual remembrance of his sacrifice

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and the cup and gave them new meaning — his body broken and his blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. He commanded his followers to do this in remembrance of him, establishing Communion as a sacred, ongoing act of worship until he returns.

Luke 22:19–20

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"

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1 Corinthians 11:26

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

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Reason 4 Communion is a participation in the body and blood of Christ

Paul teaches that the cup and bread of Communion are a genuine participation — a *koinonia*, or fellowship — in the body and blood of Christ. It is not an empty ritual but a profound, Spirit-led act of covenant renewal that unites believers with Christ and with one another.

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

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Reason 5 Jesus promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire

John the Baptist distinguished his own water baptism from the baptism Jesus would bring — a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. Jesus later reaffirmed this promise to his disciples just before his ascension, pointing to Pentecost as its fulfillment.

Matthew 3:11

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

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Acts 1:5, 8

"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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Reason 6 Pentecost — the first outpouring of the Spirit and fire

The Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was the historic fulfillment of Jesus' promise — tongues of fire rested on each of them, the Spirit was poured out, and they proclaimed the gospel with bold power.

Acts 2:1–4

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven... They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

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Joel 2:28–29

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

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Reason 7 The promise of the Spirit is for all believers in every generation

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter declared that the gift of the Holy Spirit was not only for those present but for all who are far off — every generation of believers the Lord would call. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing promise available to every believer.

Acts 2:38–39

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.'"

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Summary — Belief #6

- **Salvation — the new birth by grace through faith** — John 3:3 and Ephesians 2:8–9 establish it as the foundational act of the Christian life.
- **Water Baptism — commanded by Jesus in the Great Commission** — Matthew 28:19 and Romans 6:3–4 show it as identification with Christ's death and resurrection.
- **Communion — instituted by Jesus as a perpetual remembrance** — Luke 22:19–20 and 1 Corinthians 11:26 establish it as a covenant act until he returns.
- **Communion is a participation in the body and blood of Christ** — 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 shows it unites believers with Christ and one another.
- **Jesus promised the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire** — Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:5, 8 establish the promise and its empowering purpose.
- **Pentecost was the first outpouring of the Spirit and fire** — Acts 2:1–4 and Joel 2:28–29 show tongues of fire and the Spirit poured out on all.
- **The promise of the Spirit is for all believers in every generation** — Acts 2:38–39 extends the Baptism of the Spirit to all whom God calls.