

Baptism

*Matthew
3:11*



Newspaper account from Ipswich, England

- Mrs. Katie Barrett, 90 years old, will be baptized by total immersion at Bethesda Baptist Church next Sunday. “I’ve been pondering this since I was 18”, she says, “and now I’ve made up my mind.”
- If you do the math that is 72 years for her to decide to be baptized and I wonder if some here might be on that road too

Newspaper account from Ipswich, England

- There are many groups these days who teach that water baptism is not for the church today since it is merely a symbol which can be done away with
 - It has nothing to do with our salvation, so why?
 - It can be a detriment to salvation, so why chance it?
 - Is it really that important?

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- **Matthew 3:11 NIV**, “I baptize you with (*in*) 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 (*in*) the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - This passage is important because it marks the difference between symbolic baptism and the real baptism

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- The rite or ritual of water baptism is but a symbol of something else, and that something else is the real meaning or the reality behind baptism
- John has tied together symbol and reality, hear John say
 - “I am baptizing you as a mark of your repentance *(something that has already happened within you)* from sin.”

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- John has tied together symbol and reality, hear John say
 - “A sign of your confession of sins, but this does not complete the meaning of baptism”
 - “There is one coming mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- **Matthew 3:12 NIV**, “His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
 - John is portraying Christ as a thresher coming into the world with a winnowing fork by separating chaff from the grain (*separating believers from unbelievers*)

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- Jesus Christ is coming into the world to baptize everybody in either the Holy Spirit or with fire, one or the other
 - Fire is a symbol of judgement in Scripture
 - This fire will burn the chaff with *“unquenchable fire”*

The first references to water baptism in the New Testament are with the ministry of John the Baptist

- Ray Stedman, “John is saying to everyone, ‘If you don’t want to be baptized with fire, then confess your sins, and be baptized with water as a symbol of it, so that, when He comes your baptism will be the gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit which perfects and fulfills God’s plan for mankind.’”
 - John is anticipating the coming of Jesus the Messiah and Pentecost

Jesus was baptized by John to start His ministry

- **Matthew 3:13-15 NIV**, 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”
 - 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

Jesus was baptized by John to start His ministry

- **Matthew 3:13-15 NIV**, 15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”
 - **NLT**, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.”
 - This is my Father’s will that I should be identified with sinful man and be seen by Him as one of them

Jesus was baptized by John to start His ministry

- **Matthew 3:16-17 NIV**, 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
 - Don't you want to hear these words from your Heavenly Father?

Well, if it is just a symbol and the reality of it has come, why do we continue baptizing with water?

- Isn't that a great question?
 - After all the animal sacrifices were satisfied with the death of Jesus and we don't still do those
 - Purification washing required by Law we don't do anymore

Well, if it is just a symbol and the reality of it has come, why do we continue baptizing with water?

- **Matthew 28:18 NIV**, “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”
 - Which means He has the authority to command us, govern our lives, to dictate how to live and what He expects from us
 - Hard to disagree with this statement from one risen from the grave

Well, if it is just a symbol and the reality of it has come, why do we continue baptizing with water?

- **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV**, “19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name (*by the authority*) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Well, if it is just a symbol and the reality of it has come, why do we continue baptizing with water?

- Our Lord Jesus commands us to make disciples for Him and to demonstrate to the world they are His disciples, baptize them
 - We cannot baptize them with the Holy Spirit, only Jesus can do this
 - But the church has been commissioned or instructed by Jesus to teach believers in Him to be baptized

Well, if it is just a symbol and the reality of it has come, why do we continue baptizing with water?

- Our Lord instructs us to be baptized, and if we desire to obey His command and fulfill His will, then we must do it
 - Whether we understand it or not

Summary

- Ceil Rosen, “Baptism does not produce commitment; a person's commitment through faith prompts the desire for baptism in obedience to God's command.”
- Water baptism shows we have been cut off from the old life we once lived, not in perfection, but moving toward it
 - And been raised to a newness of life
 - It is so radical that Jesus calls it like being born again

Summary

- **Romans 4:4 NIV**, “We were therefore buried with him (*Christ*) through baptism (*of the Holy Spirit*) into (*His*) death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live (*habitually*) a new life.”

Summary

- Baptism is an express of individual faith in Jesus Christ
- It is your testimony to everyone that you have responded to the invitation of salvation from Jesus Christ and have made Him your Lord and Master
- It can also indicate your rededication to place your life under the commands of Jesus, becoming His disciple

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