



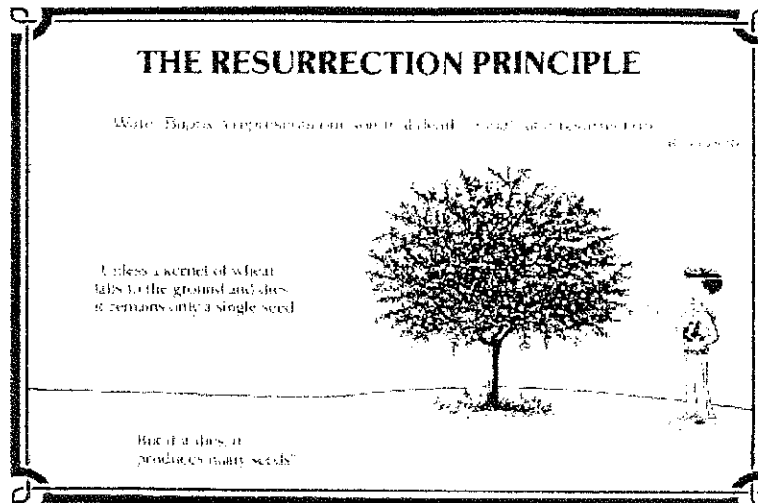
"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Four

Water Baptism

Memory Text Scripture

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"



Water baptism is the next important step in the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. Water baptism is not merely a **form** or a meaningless ceremony, but a definite **experience** in the life of a New Testament Christian, as recorded for us not only in the Gospels, but in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles.

- **Hebrews 6:1-2** "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ²**Of the doctrine of baptisms**, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."
- **Acts 2:38-41** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

What Is The Meaning Of The Word Baptism?

- Baptism or baptize means "to dip, to plunge, or **immerse**".
- **Mark 1:5** "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and **were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan**, confessing their sins."
- **John 3:23** "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, **because there was much water there**: and they came, and were baptized."
- **Acts 8:36-39** "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: **and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.** ³⁹And when they were come up out

of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

By definition and usage, the word means "to put into or under water so as to entirely immerse or submerge."

Why Have The Ordinance Of Baptism?

- Jesus commanded it.
 - **Mark 16:16** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
 - **Matthew 28:16-20** "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
- Jesus was baptized
 - **Matthew 3:13-17** "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And 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: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- The apostles commanded it
 - **Acts 2:37-47** "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men; as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
 - **Acts 10:44-48** "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷**Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?** ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."
- If we love Him, we will keep His commandments
 - **John 14:15** "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
- We validate our faith by our obedience
 - **James 2:17-18** "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."**

For Whom Is This Ordinance?

In every Scripture listed below it will be seen that people heard, believed and received the Word, and then were baptized. Repentance and faith always preceded water baptism. Therefore it is a "believer's baptism".

- "He that believe and is baptized..."
 - **Mark 16:16** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
- The Samaritans believed and were baptized.
 - **Acts 8:12-15** "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:"
- The eunuch believed and was baptized.
 - **Acts 8:35-38** "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."
- Peter commanded that the Gentiles be baptized.
 - **Acts 10:47-48** "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."
- The Ephesian disciples believed and were baptized.
 - **Acts 19:4-5** "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

More reading: Acts 9:17-18; Acts 16: 30-34; Acts 18:8

Water baptism is not optional, but an important part of obedience. To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed will of God and to reject to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 8:36** "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"
- **Question: What hinders me from being baptized?**

Water baptism involves a confession of faith in the Lordship of Jesus Christ,

- **Acts 8:36-39** "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

- **Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**"

The prerequisites of baptism are **repentance, faith and confession** (these clearly exclude infant baptism).

What Is The Meaning Of This Ordinance?

Water baptism is a **symbolic** yet real spiritual experience. It is baptism into His:

- **Death**
 - **Romans 6:3-5, 11** " *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore 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. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"
- **Burial**
 - **Colossians 2:12** "*Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*"
- **Resurrection**
 - **Colossians 3:1** "*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*"
 - **Romans 6:4-5** "*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. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*"

Baptism is **identification** with Christ. In salvation we accept Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. In water baptism we are identified with this triune fact.

- By baptism we **stand** as "dead".
- By immersion we **bury** the "dead".
- By raising out of the water, we **rise** to walk in newness of life.

What Is The New Testament Circumcision?

- It is water **baptism**
 - **Colossians 2:11-12** "*In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹²Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*"
 - **Philippians 3:2-3** "*Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. ³For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*"
- It is the **fulfillment** of the Old Testament circumcision
 - **Genesis 17:1-14** "*And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ²And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. ⁵Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of*

many nations have I made thee. ⁶And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. ⁸And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. ⁹And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. ¹⁰**This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.** ¹¹And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. ¹²And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. ¹³He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."

- It is the **seal** of the New Testament Covenant
 - **Galatians 3:26-27** "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- It is a sign and seal of covenant **relationship**, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.
 - **Joshua 5:1-9** "And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel. ²At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. ³And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. ⁴And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. ⁵Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. ⁶For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD swore that he would not show them the land, which the LORD swore unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁷**And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way.** ⁸And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. ⁹And the LORD said unto Joshua, **This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.**"