

a Brief Note on Believer's Baptism

Believers can
“Rejoice
evermore”
(I Thessalonians 5:16)

- Due to Salvation experience that leads to rich spiritual blessings in this world, and hope of eternal future in the presence of God.

Acts 8

Philip's successful gospel outreach to Eunuch

1. Clear instructions given (26) ... **arise and go to Gaza**
2. Philip's immediate obedience (27) **He arose and went**
3. Eunuch being prepared by the spirit (28) ... **reading Isaiah**
4. Further instructions given to Philip (29) ... **Go near**
5. Philip's immediate obedience (30) ... **Philip ran**
6. Philip initiates the conversation (Verse 30) ... **with a question**
7. Eunuch receptive to hear (due to #3, 31-34) ... **eager to learn**
8. Philip Preaches about Jesus (35) ... **same mission & message**
9. Confession of Eunuch (37) ... **Jesus is Son of God**
10. Baptism of Eunuch (38) ... **death to sin, resurrected to new life**
11. He went away rejoicing! (39) ... **due to true salvation experience**

Baptism Context

- Origins of Baptism seen in John's ministry (Mathew 3) (prophesied in Isaiah 40:3). John was the older cousin of Jesus (Luke 1:26,36)
 - John's Baptism called baptism by water unto **Repentance** (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:4, Acts 13:24, Acts 19:4)
 - Rejects Hypocrisy/traditions (Matthew 3:7), Family Heritage (Matthew 3:9)
 - Repentance means commitment to turn around (a U-turn) ...not just feeling sorry for sins
 - Repentance is personal

Baptism Context

- Baptism continues with the baptism of Jesus and central message of Jesus through Great Commission (Mathew 28:19, Luke 24:46-47)
- Peter's first sermon pointed to baptism (Acts 2:38)
- How is baptism of John different from the baptism of Jesus?
- How did gentiles convert to Judaism? (Proselytes) (Exodus 12:38,48 - circumcision)
- Baptism practiced today by born-again believers

Baptism Essentials



Baptism

Many baptisms in Acts

- Acts 2:41 (following Peter's sermon)
- Acts 8:12 (Samaria, following Philips' ministry)
- Acts 8: 36 (Eunuch)
- Acts 9: 18 (Paul)
- Acts 10: 48 (Cornelius household)
- Acts 16: 15 (Lydia's household)
- Acts 16:33 (Jailer's household)
- Acts 18:8 (Crispus, Many Corinthians)
- **Group baptism does not mean group salvation ...
salvation/baptism is based on personal experience**

Baptism

Why take Baptism?

- In obedience to the word of God (Mark 16:16, Hebrews 6:1)
- Following the example of Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:16)

Baptism

What does it mean?

- Baptism is a **public witness** of the internal work of Salvation.
- **Witness**: I am dead to sin and resurrected to a new life through confession of my sins and faith in the finished work on the cross. **I now belong to Christ!**
 - **Romans 6:4** “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”
 - Colossians 2:11-12, Galatians 3:26-27

Baptism

Believer's Baptism and Believer's Wedding ...any similarities?



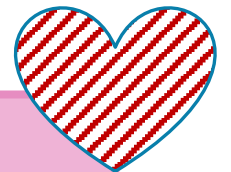
Baptism

Believer's Baptism and Believer's Wedding ...any similarities?



Both are:

Personal,
Public,
Relationship,
Christ centered
Lifetime



Baptism

Who is Qualified?

To qualify, you should:

1. **Receive** the word of God (Acts 2:41)
 2. **Believe** on the word of God (Acts 18:8)
 3. **Confess/Repent** of your sins (Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9/10)
- Infants are disqualified as they cannot Receive, Believe, or Confess.

From Acts 6

What is the
basis for
Eternal Life?

By grace,
and not
works

Ephesians
2:8-9

Who is
qualified?

Everyone

Acts 2:21

How to
receive it?

Confession

Romans
10:9

Baptism

How to take it?

(Greek meaning of baptism:
dip or immerse)

- Eunuch *went down* in water (Acts 8:38)
 - And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. (==> **Immersion**)
- Jesus was baptized *in Jordan river* (Matthew 3:16)
 - And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: (==> **Immersion**)
- Baptism of John was *in much water* (John 3:23)
 - And John also was baptizing in Ænon because there was much water there (==> **Immersion**)

Baptism

When to take it?

- **ASAP...** after our conversion (born-again) experience.
- **Eunuch**
 - 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?**
- **Paul**
 - Acts 9:18/22:16 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized
- **Jailer and household** (Acts 16:33)
- Thief on the cross saved, but no opportunity for baptism

Baptism

Blessings

- **General Principle:** Blessings follow Obedience to the Word of God

Baptism

Blessings

- Believers are baptized in the name of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28: 19)
- Experience of Lord Jesus Christ, Mathews 3:16-17
 - Heavens opened
 - Spirit descended
 - Father well pleased and spoke (other occasions: Matthew 17:5, John 12:28)
- Gives us boldness for witnessing
- Gives Joy! The Eunuch “went back rejoicing” (Acts 8:39)
- Paul’s life was transformed (Acts 9 & ...)

Baptism

NO

- **Does baptism save us?**
- **Does Baptism make us perfect?**
- **Does Baptism bring an end to all our trials & sufferings?**

?

ARE YOU
BORN AGAIN
&
BAPTIZED

JOHN 3:7

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

MARK 16:16

**He that believeth and is baptized
shall be saved; but he that
believeth not shall be damned**

Baptism

Why do some hesitate to take baptism?

- Feeling they are not good enough to take baptism
- Do not have the boldness
- Fear of rejection or hostility from family or community
- Do not fully understand the teaching on baptism
- Older people tend to hesitate to humble themselves

Conclusion: It is a personal decision and one must have personal conviction (prompted by the Spirit). As we pray, God will give peace, boldness and grace to face any conflicts and challenges. Eunuch went away rejoicing (Acts 8:39) and you can too!

Acts Review: Do we remember?

1

- Author of Acts, Kingdom of God, Lord's Ascension
- Waiting for Holy Spirit, The Mission, Replacement for Judas

2

- Arrival of Holy Spirit, Difference in spirit between OT and NT
- Speaking in Tongues (Source, Purpose, Appropriate use) Peter's Sermon (Message, Last days) when is Holy Spirit given, Birth of Church and Characteristics of church

3

- First Healing (how? Parallel to sinner's experience)
- Peter's Sermon model (Question, Introduces Jesus, Confronts Mistakes, offers path to Repentance & Restoration, refers to Prophecies, Result)

Acts Review

Do we Remember?

4

- First Persecution-reason and verdict, Sanhedrin, Peter & John's response, Church Response, God's response, Caring Church, 2nd pouring of the Holy Spirit

5

- Church Discipline: Purpose, Example, Outcome
- Second Persecution: Reason, Peter's message to council, Response to beatings, Impact on Ministry

6

- Addressing Problems in church using godly decision making process
- Delegating to effectively exercise priority in use of gifts and talents

Acts Review

Do we Remember?

7

Stephen: Great man of God, Falsely accused, Confronts the council, Stoned to death, Received by Christ

8

- Growing Persecution, but positive outcomes.
- Successful ministry of Philip in Samaria, Questionable salvation of Simon, significance of laying on of hands
- Philip's outreach to Eunuch leading to baptism. Baptism.
- How can we be effective evangelists?

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