

# Captive's Corner



*"Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"*

*2 Corinthians 10:5*

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## THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Here is a summary of what I see the meaning of baptism to be: First of all, baptism is an act of obedience to our Lord. This becomes clear if you study Matthew 28:18-20 with Acts 10:47-48. Baptism is also an act of identification with Christ in His death. See Romans 6:1-6. This is a very graphic picture. Since we have been crucified with Christ, then the logical next step is a funeral or burial! Baptism is further an act of renunciation of our old habits. I believe this is the key point of Acts 22:16 where Paul is told to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins, calling on the Name of the Lord. We Christians know that we are cleansed of our

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You must read this statement in 1 Peter 3:21 in the context of 1 Peter 3:13 - 4:6. If you do, you will see clearly that the problem involves being ill-treated for doing right. Our baptism is an affirmation that we have died to the world and now live to God and according to

the will of God. Thus, we accept the suffering that flows from following our Lord in this world with a good conscience that li

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ves in the presence of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ to whom all authority is now given and to whom all must someday give an accounting. By faith we look as Noah did

beyond this perishing world to the new world to come. Jesus Christ is our ark. See Hebrews 11:7. We are safe in Him. We are at peace before Him. Our future is bound up in Him.

As you can see from the above, nowhere is water baptism spoken of as the condition of life. Rather, a person is baptized because he has been given life by God. Please read through the book of Acts noting this fact. In John 3:1-21 many people read into the word "water" the ordinance of baptism, but if you read carefully that passage you will clearly see that Jesus corrects Nicodemus because he listens to the words of Jesus and visualizes a

physical meaning when a spiritual meaning is intended. Jesus explains how the new birth occurs in John 3:14-15 as He refers

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to the event recorded in Numbers 21:4-9. Read these two passages carefully in order to understand that life comes by His grace through faith

alone in the provision He has provided.

Some confusion exists in the church today regarding the difference between the ordinance of baptism I have just summarized (which men administer) and the baptism with the Holy Spirit (which God administers). The Spirit's baptism places the believer into the body of Christ and makes the believer a partaker of true life from above which is shared by all members of His body.

Sincerely in Christ,

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his or her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit's baptism enables the believer to serve God with His divine power. Further, the Spirit's baptism could not occur until Christ was glorified. See John 7:37-39. Only then could God's Spirit put believers in Him in

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union with one another and join them to their Head in Heaven, Jesus Christ. Only then could His chosen ones go into all the world and preach the finished work of God's Son on

the cross for salvation. Jesus Christ had to die, rise from the dead, and be glorified to the Father's right hand before His people could act on earth as His body and proclaim Him throughout the world. See Acts 1:8.

See 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. This baptism occurs the moment a person repents and puts