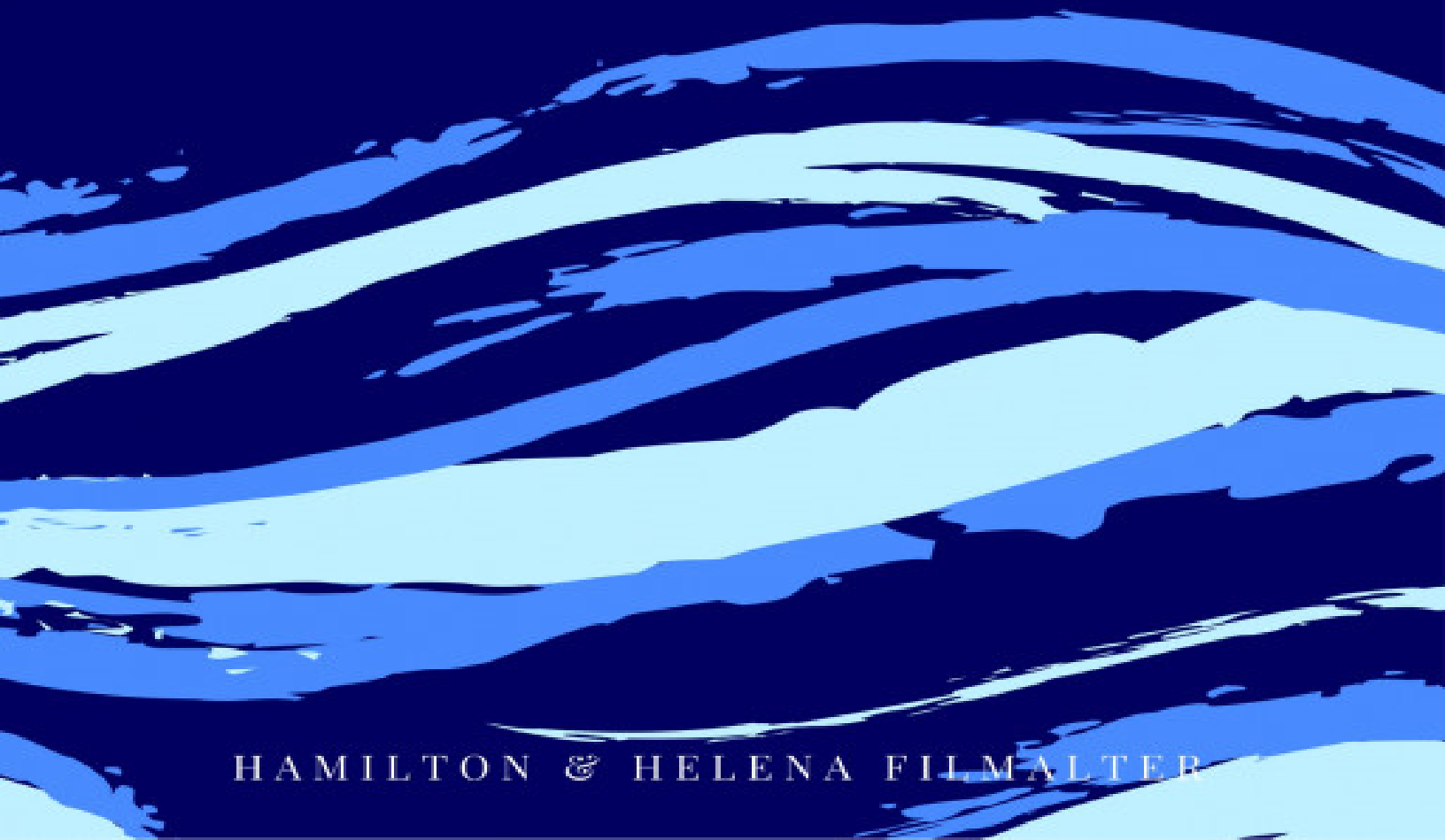
QUICK GUIDE

Blessings of Believer's Baptism in Water



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QUICK GUIDE:

The Blessings of Believer's Baptism in Water

A Bible Study on Believer's Baptism in Water

There are many blessings in store for those who get baptized after they have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior:

1. The Blessing of Obedience

2. The Blessing of Placing Your Life under the Full Authority of God

3. The Blessing of Deeply Associating with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus

4. The Blessing of a Decisive Cut-Off Point from your Old Life of Sin

5. The Blessing of a Clean Conscience

6. The Blessing of Greater Spiritual Insight

7. Examples of Baptism in The Book of Acts

8. Re-Baptized

9. When to Get Baptized

10. Who May Baptize?

11. To be Baptized

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1. The Blessing of Obedience

Jesus is the One who commanded us to be baptized and obeying His commands brings a great blessing. Jesus said,

> "You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you."
>
> (John 16:14)

After the resurrection, Jesus commanded those who follow Him to be baptized:

> Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
>
> (Matthew 28:18 – 20)
>
> He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the Good News to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned.
>
> (Mark 16:15)

Obedience brings a blessing of peace. When your children obey you, they are at peace and busy with the activities necessary for their development. When there is disobedience, their lives are disrupted. Fussing and crying starts and they can't do anything meaningful. In the same way, if we obey Jesus, we have peace and our spiritual lives continue to grow and develop.

Jesus himself was eager to obey the Father and be baptized:

> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.
>
> (Mat 3:13-17)

After Jesus was baptized, “He went up out of the water.” This means that He was submersed in the water by John. The Greek word “baptize” means to be completely submersed. Biblical baptism is by immersion. When we get baptized by immersion, we are following the example Jesus set.

2. The Blessing of Aligning our Lives under the Full Authority of the Godhead

> Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
>
> (Matt 28:18)

Jesus first made an astonishing statement of authority: “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth”, and *then* He gave the command to be baptized. Baptism has to do with authority: it is a transfer of authority. That is why baptism is done *in the name of* the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The name of a person speaks of the authority of that person, e.g. when a person signs his name on a check or a contract, there is a transfer of authority and legal power that takes place.

In the same way, when we are baptized *in the name of* the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, an exchange of authority takes place. We are placing our lives under the full authority of the Godhead and cutting off every old authority of sin, dead religion, idolatry and the evil one under which we used to live. There is tremendous safety and spiritual protection in placing ourselves under the full authority of the Godhead when we get baptized. Placing our lives under God’s authority also means that Jesus is now the Lord and Master of our lives.

3. The Blessing of Deeply Associating with the Death & Resurrection the Lord Jesus

When we get baptized, we deeply associate with the death of the Lord Jesus as we go under the water, and with His resurrection as we come out of the water. This association with His death and resurrection is a very powerful spiritual transaction as Paul explains in Romans 6:3-14

> 3 Or don’t you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
>
> were baptized into his death?
>
> 4 We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death,
>
> that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,
>
> so we also might walk in newness of life.
>
> 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death,
>
> we will also be part of his resurrection;
>
> 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him,
>
> that the body of sin might be done away with,
>
> so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.
>
> 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.
>
> 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him;

9 knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more.

Death no more has dominion over him!

10 For the death that he died, he died to sin one time; but the life that he lives, he lives to God.

11 Thus consider yourselves also to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

12 Therefore don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 Also, do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness,

but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead,

and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin will not have dominion over you.

(Romans 6:1-14)

Baptism deals with your past sins in a very profound way. Now is the time for repentance from any sin, ungodly ways and shameful secrets. The slavery of sin is broken through baptism. When you are baptized you die to your old sinful life, just as Christ died, and as you come up out of the water, you associate with His resurrection; you are raised up into a new life in Him.

4. The Blessing of a Decisive A Cut-Off Point from Your Old Life

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, Pharaoh pursued them to the Red Sea. The sea parted and the Israelites walked through on dry ground, but Pharaoh and his army drowned as the sea closed in upon them. Pharaoh's power over the Israelites was completely broken at the Red Sea. Egypt symbolizes our old life of slavery to sin and Pharaoh is a type of the devil.

Now I would not have you ignorant, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea

(1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

Believer's baptism is compared to being baptized in the sea, i.e. passing through the Red Sea. It is the cut-off point from our old life of sin where all power and authority of the devil over us is broken.

5. The Blessing of a Clean Conscience

Baptism is a washing, not of the body, but sin is washed away and our conscience is washed clean before God. What a blessing to have our conscience washed clean from everything we are now ashamed of!

Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

(Acts 22:16)

God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ship was being built. In it, few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. *This is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you - not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him.

(1 Peter 3:20-22)

Again, note how the authority of the Lord Jesus is established in your life when you are baptized. ". . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him." (1 Peter 3:21-22). All the old powers over your life are now evicted as Jesus, who is at the right hand of God, is made the authority over your life.

6. The Blessing of Greater Spiritual Insight

> When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they declared God to be just, having been baptized with John's baptism. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law rejected the counsel of God, not being baptized by him themselves.
>
> (Luke 7:29-30)

When those who were baptized by John heard Jesus, they understood his message and declared that God's way is just and right. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law who refused to be baptized by John, showed no spiritual insight and rejected what Jesus said.

Water baptism will open up greater levels of spiritual insight to you. You will understand the Word of God better and you will have greater insight into God's plan for your life.

7. Examples of Baptism in The Book of Acts

▪ Philip in Samaria:

> But when they believed Philip preaching good news concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
>
> (Acts 8:12)

▪ The Ethiopian Eunuch:

> As they went on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water. What is keeping me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.
>
> (Acts 8:36-38)

▪ Saul gets saved on the road to Damascus and three days later:

> Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. He arose and was baptized.
>
> (Acts 9:17-18)

Years later Paul recounts his testimony:

> Ananias said, 'Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'
>
> (Acts 22:16)

▪ Peter and Cornelius:

> Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
>
> (Acts 10:47-48)

▪ Paul and the Philippian Jailer:

> He said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."… He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes (wounds), and was immediately baptized, he and all his household.
>
> (Acts 16:30-33)

It is very clear from these examples that new believers were baptized very quickly, often on the same day they got saved

8. Re-Baptized?

> Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said to him, “No, we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with other languages and prophesied. They were about twelve men in all. On hearing this, they were baptized.
>
> (Acts 19:1-7)

It is clear that these Ephesians were saved – they are called “disciples” and Paul asked about what happened “when they believed.” If you read the end of Acts 18:24-28, you will see that they believed and became disciples when Apollos preached Jesus to them. Under Apollos they were baptized in the tradition of John, but they had not been baptized associating with the death & resurrection of Jesus. (John’s baptism was a baptism unto repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is in Jesus) Paul corrected this by baptizing them again, this time in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Today this would apply to people who were sprinkled or christened as babies, or were baptized as teenagers “just because everyone else was baptized.” Salvation must happen first, before baptism in water. Jesus said you have to be His disciple first, and you must believe in Him before you are baptized:

> Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
>
> (Matthew 28:19)
>
> He who believes and is baptized will be saved
>
> (Mark 16:16)

Also, people who have backslidden significantly (sexual sin, drugs, etc.) after they first believed and were baptized, need to be baptized again. They took a trip back into Egypt, deeply participating in sin, and need a fresh washing and deliverance.

9. When to Get Baptized

Don’t waste any time! As we have seen in the Book of Acts, people were often baptized on the same day they got saved.

On the Day of Pentecost Peter preached the Gospel for the first time. The people were struck in the heart and asked him, “What shall we do to be saved?” Peter answered by laying out the first steps that new believers need to take according to what Jesus had commanded them:

> “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls.
>
> (Act 2:38 & 41)

10. Who May Baptize?

Jesus gave all believers authority to baptize when He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt 28:19)

Paul had new believers baptize others:

> Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.
>
> (Acts 18:5)

Later Paul writes,

I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one should say that I had baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas; besides them, I don't know whether I baptized any other.) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Good News.

(1 Cor 1:14-17)

Many of the Corinthians were baptized (Acts 18:5), but Paul baptized only three households! These new believers baptized the others.

11. To Be Baptized

▪ You must be saved, i.e. you must be born again to be baptized.

▪ Prepare your heart. Come sincerely before God to leave your old life behind. Repent of any secret sins. Ask the Lord to show you what strongholds in our life need to be cut off in the waters of baptism. Jesus wants to set you free. Make him the Lord of your life. Ask the Lord if there is anything in your possession that you need to get rid of.

▪ Any other believer may baptize you. Women may baptize just the same as men.

Baptism can be done

▪ in the sea, in a river, lake, swimming pool, jacuzzi, large bathtub or baptismal pool.

▪ There needs to be enough water to cover you completely, no arms or legs sticking out.

▪ Since you will come out wet, it is advisable to wear dark clothing.

▪ Bring a change of clothes and a towel.

▪ You will be asked to share your testimony and confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

▪ As you are standing in the water, the person baptizing you will say,

"I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in the Name of Jesus."

He will lower you into the water, completely submersing you. Hold your nose closed and keep your arms and legs under. You will come out of the water resurrected to a new life through Christ Jesus, clean before God, and your old life washed away.

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