

What Does the Scripture Say About Baptism?

Some commonly held opinions about baptism:

1. It doesn't matter what I do or think in baptism. It can even be done to infants or small children. Later, they can go through confirmation to make a commitment.
2. Baptism is just an outer show symbolizing an inner change.
3. I'm saved when I say a prayer and accept Christ as my personal savior. Later on, I can be baptized. It doesn't really matter how long I wait.
4. Baptism is just a good work--an act of obedience. And we aren't saved by works.
5. How we baptize doesn't matter. Anything we call baptism will do.
6. Baptism is a public profession of my faith before other believers.
7. Baptism has nothing to do with receiving the Holy Spirit.
8. Baptism has nothing to do with my salvation.

Here's the real question: *Is there any evidence in the Bible that a single apostle believed any of these things? If not, what did they believe?*

Baptism = *baptisma* (Greek) = consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion, and emergence (from *bapto*, "to dip")

Sprinkle = *rhantizo* = "to sprinkle", [as] with blood

From Vines Dictionary of Bible Words

Matthew 28:18-20

18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name 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."

Mark 16:15-16

15He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. **16**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

John 3:3-5

3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." **4**"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" **5**Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

Acts 2:38-39

38Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 22:16

16And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Romans 6:3-4

3Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **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.

1 Corinthians 12:13

13For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Galatians 3:26-27

26You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **27**for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Ephesians 4:4-5

4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26**to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27**and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Colossians 2:11-13

11In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, **12**having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. **13**When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

Titus 3:5

5He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 . . . God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:1-6

1While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

4Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Some Conclusions:

1. The apostles very much believed that baptism was a part of _____, as an expression of both _____ and _____.
2. Baptism is never referred to as a _____ or _____.
3. It doesn't matter _____.
4. We are commanded both to _____ and to _____.
5. Baptism is where we receive God's _____.
6. There is no _____ for any of the commonly held views listed at the top.
7. What I do in baptism is as important as what _____.
8. The reasons for baptism are _____ and do _____.
9. When Paul encountered those who hadn't receive the "one baptism", he _____.
10. Baptism is where I am promised God's _____.
11. There is not a single example in the Scripture of someone _____, _____ or _____ to become a Christian.