

Water Baptism



129) What is the third spiritual foundation stone?

- A. The doctrine of baptisms.

"instruction (doctrine, KJV) about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."

HEB 6:2 NIV

130) What does the word "doctrine" mean.

- A. The word doctrine means "teaching." When the Bible speaks of believing a doctrine, it involves not only the intellectual exercise of understanding, but also the principle of living or experiencing that belief.

131) Do I need to experience more than one baptism?

- A. Yes. The Bible speaks of three baptisms. The baptisms of water, Holy Spirit, and fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

MATT 3:11 NIV

132) Where does the word "baptism" come from?

- A. It comes from the Greek word "baptō" which means "to dip or immerse."
 B. The Greeks used the verb form of the word "to signify the dyeing of a garment, or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another" or symbolically "of being overwhelmed with questions." (Vines, 88-89)
 C. "Its past participle (bebaptismenos) means *submerged*, and it is regularly used of being *submerged in any experience*. For instance, a spendthrift is said to be *submerged* in debt. A drunk is said to be *submerged* in drink. A grief-stricken person is said to be *submerged* in sorrow. A lad before a cross-examining teacher is said to be *submerged* in questions. The word is regularly used for a ship that has been wrecked and *submerged* beneath the waves." (Barclay, 265)

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- D. In summary, the word "baptism" means to be immersed, overwhelmed or submerged in an event or experience.

133) What is water baptism?

- A. Water baptism is a rite of initiation into the Body of Christ. It is always preceded by repentance of sin and a confession of faith in Jesus Christ. During water baptism, the Holy Spirit also deals with our sinful nature through the circumcision of heart.
- B. Physically, water baptism is accomplished by lowering the candidate below the surface of a body of water and then returning them to their feet.

"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" [38] Peter 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." [40] With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." [41] Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

ACT 2:37-41 NIV

"In 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."

COL 2:11-12 NIV

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him."

MATT 3:16 NIV

"As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" [38] And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

ACT 8:36-38 NIV

134) Who is eligible for water baptism?

- A. Believers. The events that must precede water baptism are repentance of sin and a saving faith in Jesus Christ that comes from the preaching of the word.

"He (Jesus) 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."

MARK 16:15-16 NIV

"Peter 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. ... With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." [41] Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about

three thousand were added to their number that day."

ACTS 2:38, 40-41 NIV

"Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized."

ACTS 18:8 NIV

135) Is it proper to water baptize infants or children?

- A. Infants are too young to meet the requirements of being believers. Children who are old enough to understand they are sinners, repent, and accept Jesus as their savior, are old enough to be water baptized.

136) What would we call the act of water baptism which is not preceded by repentance?

- A. A dead work. A dead work might "look" good, but it accomplishes nothing spiritually.

137) Why should we get water baptized?

- A. We are commanded in scripture to be water baptized. Jesus, Peter, and Paul all directed new believers to be water baptized.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore 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."

MATT 28:18-20 NIV

"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" [38] Peter 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."

ACTS 2:37-38 NIV

"So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. [4] Paul 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." [5] On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."

ACT 19:3-5 NIV

- B. We have the example of Jesus. Although sinless and not in need of repenting, Jesus submitted to the baptism of John to "fulfill all righteousness." Likewise, we obey our Savior to fulfill all righteousness.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. [14] But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" [15] Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented."

MAT 3:13-15 NIV

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"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. [16] I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."

JOHN 13:15-16 NIV

138) What Bible images are connected to baptism?

A. Death.

1. Jesus used the image of baptism to indicate that He would be immersed in, overwhelmed by, death on the cross.

"But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!"

LUKE 12:50 NIV

"We are going up to Jerusalem," he (Jesus) said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, [34] who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise." [35] Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." [36] "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. [37] They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." [38] "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" [39] "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, [40] but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

MARK 10:33-40 NIV

B. The crossing of the Red Sea.

1. While crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel were protected from Pharaoh's army by the cloud behind them and completely surrounded or overwhelmed by the walls of water on the left and the right.

"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. [2] They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

1COR 10:1-2 NIV

C. Circumcision.

1. Circumcision was given to Abraham by God as a sign of the covenant between them. Eight days after a male child was born into the natural family of Abraham, a natural circumcision was the sign that he joined Abraham's covenant with God.

"This is my covenant with you (Abraham) and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. [11] You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. [12] For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner - those who are not your offspring."

GEN 17:10-12 NIV

Water Baptism

2. After you are born into God's spiritual family, you undergo a spiritual circumcision of the heart during water baptism which is an outward and visible sign that you have partaken of the New Covenant.

"The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live."

DEU 30:6 NIV

"In 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."

COL 2:11-12 NIV

139) What physically happens when I am water baptized?

- A. I confess my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.
- B. I am lowered beneath, or overwhelmed by, the waters then raised up again.

140) What spiritually happens when I am water baptized?

- A. Identification with the death of Jesus. As the sinless Christ identified with me by living as a man and dying in my place on the cross, I publicly identify with His redeeming death, burial and resurrection in the waters of baptism.
 1. The steps of the identification:
 - a. Immersion in water - death.
 - b. Submersion in water - burial.
 - c. Emerging from the water - resurrection.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2COR 5:21 NIV

"... We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? [3] Or 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. [5] If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."

ROM 6:2-5 NIV

- B. Circumcision of the heart.

141) What is the circumcision of heart?

- A. Circumcision of heart is a spiritual work God does in the waters of baptism. Natural circumcision is a "cutting away" of skin. Circumcision of the heart is the cutting away of the fleshly, sinful, old nature. Our old man is put off or "disarmed." The power of the old man is broken in our life, freeing us to be able to live for God.

"A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. [29] No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision

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of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."

ROM 2:28-29 NIV

"In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off (disarming) 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."

COL 2:11-12 NIV

142) After my heart has been circumcised, will I be sinless?

- A. No. You will not be sinless until your salvation is complete; that is, until your physical body dies and you receive your glorified body.
- B. Circumcision of heart breaks the power of sin in your life. It does not remove sin from your life. You will still be tempted, but you will now have the power to resist. The old man is "disarmed." As long as you "count yourself dead," and yield him no power, he will have no control over your life.
- C. After you have experienced circumcision of heart, you must be careful that you don't let your mind feed on your own ways. You should remove yourself from these sources of "old" thinking and immerse yourself in God's word, so that your mind can be renewed. Don't squander the work God has performed in your heart.

"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - [7] because anyone who has died has been freed from sin."

ROM 6:6-7 NIV

"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. [14] For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace."

ROM 6:11-14 NIV

143) How does the circumcision of heart take place in water baptism?

- A. It takes place as a result of your faith in God's word. There is no magic in the water. When you go into the waters of baptism expecting the spiritual work of circumcision of heart to be completed, God honors your faith and performs the work.

"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith."

HEB 4:2 NIV

144) In what name should we be water baptized?

- A. The Bible mentions being baptized in the name of 1) the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 2) Jesus Christ, and 3) Lord Jesus.

Water Baptism

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore 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 28:18-19 NIV

"Peter 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."

ACTS 2:38 NIV

"On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."

ACTS 19:5 NIV

- B. The name used is not as important as God's presence in the baptism. At the baptism of Jesus, the entire triune Godhead was present. Likewise, if invited, the entire Godhead will be present at your baptism.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. [17] And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

MATT 3:16-17 NIV

- C. One effective formula is: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, into the Lord Jesus Christ, for the circumcision of heart."

145) Is water baptism required in order to go to heaven?

- A. No. Eternal life in heaven is a reward of our being justified by faith. If water baptism was required, the thief on the cross could not have joined Jesus in paradise.

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

JOHN 5:24 NIV

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

ROM 10:9-10 NIV

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" [40] But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? [41] We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." [42] Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." [43] Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

LUK 23:39-43 NIV

146) Why is water baptism necessary?

- A. It is an act of obedience and submission.
 - 1. Jesus commanded us to be baptized.
 - 2. Jesus submitted in baptism to John the Baptist.
 - 3. The early believers submitted to the Apostles and the church leaders.
- B. Salvation comes in three parts or installments: Justification is salvation applied to our spirit man. Sanctification is salvation applied to our soul. Glorification is salvation applied to our bodies. All three, taken together, constitute salvation. Baptism is part of the sanctification of our soul and therefore is a necessary part of our salvation.

"He 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."

MARK 16:15-16 NIV

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MATT 3:13-15 NIV

"So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. [4] Paul 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." [5] On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."

ACT 19:3-5 NIV

147) If my previous baptism was a dead work, am I allowed to be baptized again?

- A. Certainly! Part of repenting from a dead work is setting it straight. God does not condemn a heart that wants all God has to offer.
- B. If you were baptized before you were born again, by all means get baptized as a believer.

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples [2] and 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." [3] So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. [4] Paul 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." [5] On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."

ACTS 19:1-5 NIV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 11

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Explain the concept of water baptism.

- 2) Who is eligible for water baptism? Why?

- 3) List two reason why believers are water baptized.

- 4) List the three steps of baptism and their relationship to the death of Jesus.

- 5) Explain circumcision of heart.
