

New Way of Living

STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD
TO STIMULATE GROWTH

6 Baptism in Water



Bible Studies

Introduction

When looking at this foundation truth in the scriptures, a question that often comes to mind is: "Is it necessary for me to be baptized?" The answer to that question is without doubt, "Yes."

Let the Scriptures Answer with Two Considerations:

1. In the Great Commission to the Apostles, Jesus Commands Baptism

Matt 24:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

2. In carrying out the Great Commission, the Apostles Command Baptism

Acts 2:37 Then when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do.

:38 Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

By the Commandment of Both Jesus and the Apostles we see...

Baptism is not an option, but, a **Commandment** to be carried out by the believer following repentance.

First Principles

Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews speaks of **Seven First Principles**:

Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

These first principles are listed in the following chapter:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

:2 of the doctrine of baptisms, and of the laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment,

:3 and this we will do if God permit

Seven Principles:

There are seven principles to be believed and embodied by every believer. They are as follows:

1. Repentance from dead works.
2. Faith toward God.
3. The doctrine of baptisms.
4. The Laying on of hands.
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal judgment.
7. Perfection.

Note the Third Principle: The Doctrine of Baptisms:

It is plural. The Bible reveals a number of baptisms to be experienced by the believer, and all should be sought after. One is accentual to **salvation**, the others accentual to **growth**.

For example:

1. Baptism into the Body of Christ

1Cor 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

Explanation:

- This is the baptism essential to salvation, and is spoken of by Jesus:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

This is a baptism (immersion) into the body of Christ by the action of the Holy Spirit. This occurs at conversion and the believer reveals the fruit of this baptism by their commitment and faithfulness to the local church God has planted them in (Hebrews 10:25; Psalm 92:13).

2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We will cover this baptism in a later study. Let it be sufficient for now to say: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is essential for growth and power to serve God.

3. Baptism into the Word

A baptism (immersion) into the Word of God, bringing cleansing as well as sanctification of the soul from the effects of habitual sin; beliefs, philosophies, doctrines and opinions contrary to sound doctrine.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the word

The Fruit of Baptism in the Word

The fruit of this baptism is a **Hearing** of the Word, followed by a **Studying** of the Word, concluding with a **Doing** of the Word

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.

4. Baptism of Fire (Acts 2:1-4)

Matt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with fire*:

:12 Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

This experience accompanies the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The fire symbolizes cleansing which the Holy Spirit acquires in us through the Word of God in our trials of faith. Peter alludes to this baptism in his epistle:

1Pet 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (Jam 1:2-3).

- The fruit of this baptism is an apparent love for Jesus, whom at this time you cannot see (1Pet 1:8).

Baptism - What Does this Word Mean?

- This English word comes from a similar sounding Greek word **baptizo**, which means to bathe, to dip, to plunge under, to immerse, to consecrate by putting into.
- Immediately we see an important truth here: If baptism means to immerse then it follows that water baptism means to immerse in water. This also means then that the water must be of sufficient depth to allow complete immersion of the Christian, be it a river, the ocean, a bath tub or a baptismal tank in a church.

Note: Acts 8:38 and he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Consider also

Matt 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

What then is Water Baptism?

- Baptism in water is the Bible required act of obedience that testifies of genuine repentance and faith towards God.
- It is identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
- It is a public judicial act to terminate the history of the **old man** or the nature of lawlessness in each of us.
- It is a confession of our desire to be clean from sins of every kind.
- It makes real to the Christian the purpose of God in washing and loosening us from our sins.
- Baptism testifies figuratively to the salvation that comes by faith now indwelling in the candidate for baptism.
- Baptism in water is the outward act of acceptance of the inward remission (pardon) of sins (Acts 2:38).

What of Baptizing Babies?

It might be, you were baptized as a baby and those responsible baptized you in sincerity and in faith towards God. Such baptisms are accomplished by the officiating minister sprinkling the babies head with (holy) water while naming the child in the presence of the parents, family and friends. The tradition of water baptism of babies has been added to the Biblical service in which parents dedicate their new born child to the Lord committing themselves to the nurturing and upbringing of the child in a Christian environment. If you as a child were baptized, you may be asking the question: "Is my baptism as a baby acceptable to God?" We will attempt to answer the question.

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul

:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there, and she constrained us.

Explanation:

These verses have been used to validate the baptism of babies quoting Lydia's "household." Household does not imply there were babies baptized; neither do the scriptures give us authority to imply it.

Let Scripture Interpret Scripture...

Following the baptism of Lydia and her household Paul and Silas are imprisoned. (Acts 16:16-24) Then about midnight there is an earthquake that released the prisoners from the stocks and opened the prison doors. The jailer, believing that his prisoners had escaped, thought to take his own life. Paul prevents him from doing so and the jailer came before Paul and Silas and fell down before them. (Acts 16:25-29)

Let's now consider the following verses:

Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

:31 and they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

:32 and they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house,

:33 and he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

:34 and when he brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

There is a Process

1. Paul and Silas speak the Word of the Lord to the Jailer and to all that were in the house (Acts 16:32).
2. The jailer and all his were baptized. (Acts 16:33)
3. He (the jailer) rejoiced, believing in God with "all his house" (Acts 16:34).

It is Evident

- Those baptized were old enough to hear and understand the Word of the Lord.
- Old enough to make a conscious decision to be baptized
- Following baptism, consciously rejoice and believe in God together: Things babies are incapable of.

Consistency of Scripture Tells Us

- Throughout the Scriptures, to be baptized, it is evident, the candidate for baptism, had to be **a believer**.
Therefore born again (regenerated).
- The apostles consistent with the Scriptures looked for a confession of repentance from dead works and faith toward God, of those considering baptism.
- As we have established: The meaning of the word "baptism" demands immersion into water. This is confirmed in the recorded accounts of baptism.

Whom do we baptize?

Let us again refer to the Scriptures to get a clear direction as to who may be baptized. In the Apostle Peter's great sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) we are given the answer. Peter, in reply to the crowds despairing question of what they should do to be right with God, said:

Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized

Here we see an important attitude of heart toward the Word of God of those being baptized, as a prerequisite to water baptism: They that gladly (with pleasure) received his word, were baptized.

Consider also:

Acts 8:12 And when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

We then see the Ethiopian asking Philip- :36 See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said- :37 **If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest**

And then the Ethiopian said- :37 **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**

It becomes clear to us from these examples that a prerequisite to water baptism is: To believe in God and in His Son Jesus Christ.

What now?

Repentance

- Let's consider again Acts 2:38 where we see the first word of the gospel: **Repent**. This word means change your direction or, turn back and go the opposite way.
- Or more specifically from God's point of view, it means: Acknowledge sin in your life and accept the atoning work of Christ on Calvary and ask Jesus into your heart and life.

Prerequisites to Baptism

1. Repentance of sin.
2. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When anyone is repentant of sin and is a believer in Jesus Christ, the exhortation of Acts 10:4 applies: Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?

When Do we Baptize?

- The "born again" believer in God and His Son Jesus Christ, upon enlightenment from the Word by the Holy Spirit of the necessity of water baptism should be baptized as soon as is convenient.
- The person may be young or old in years. Age is not an issue if the one considering baptism is of an age of understanding and possesses a personal faith and conviction; some take time in coming to the conviction of baptism and proceeding.

Jesus' Baptism

- At this point we may ask, "What then of Jesus baptism?" (Seeing as He was without sin.). John the Baptist also posed this question to Jesus in **Matt 3:14** **But John forbade him (Jesus), saying I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?**
- However Jesus' answer shows us the extent He went to, to identify with mankind. Jesus answered: "**Suffer it to be so now for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.**"

- In other words Jesus' actions show us that He was giving us an example to follow. He was not expecting us to do anything He wouldn't do Himself. He was setting a pattern for us. (see I Peter 2:21)
- In God's demands for righteousness in the believer, it is necessary the believer identify with Christ's death, burial and resurrection through the action of water baptism and his/her following manner of life testifying to an inward cleansing from sin and in possession of a desire to walk before God in righteousness and holiness.

Three Areas of Identification in Romans

Paul in his epistle to the Romans speaks to the church in Rome as there was those there of the persuasion that being in Christ and baptized, they were at liberty to continue in sin. Paul answers:

**Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

Paul proceeds to draw the reader's attention to three areas of identification in baptism. They are:

Death

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Burial

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Resurrection

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

The Result of This Identification

Rom 6:6 Knowing this that the old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

This scripture gives us a principal object of water baptism: Receiving the Word

Who or What then is Our "Old Man"?

Our old man is that unregenerate human nature that we are all born with - a sinful nature, inherited from our father, who inherited it from his father, and so on back to Adam, the father of all flesh. (We can see here why it was important that Jesus had a virgin birth.)

The prophet Jeremiah speaks about the human nature of man in Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Paul said the following of all (every living soul) that has ever lived:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Paul Comments to the Galatians

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

For easy understanding the Works of the flesh (of the Old Man) are set out as follows:

Gal 5:19

- Adultery
- Fornication
- Uncleanness
- Lasciviousness, - That is, licentiousness, wantonness.

Gal 5:20

- Idolatry
- Witchcraft
- Hatred
- Variance
- Emulations - envy, jealousy
- Wrath
- Strife
- Seditions
- Heresies

Gal 5:21

- Envy
- Murders
- Drunkenness
- Revelings, and the like.

We know that Jesus forgave us our sins when we accepted Him. However, before we came to know Him we had established sinful habit patterns in our lives. These habits often reoccur during a Christian's life and can cause untold anguish and condemnation which the enemy is able to use to "blunt" our thrust in Christ.

Remember:

- Jesus Christ died for our sins.
- We are to remain free of the power of sin over our lives. Understanding the nature of sin and its works seen in our flesh, while acknowledging it abides with us, we are better able to overcome it by dying to it and its works and forming new habits. New habits that testify to the indwelling new man that in nature is in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Habits:

- Sinful habit patterns then, are those ruling powers within us; that have been conquered, that we are to remain free from. **But How?** The answer to this is in the truth of water baptism - that public judicial act to terminate the power of sin in our lives - the power of the "old man".

No matter what the sinful habit pattern - it has been successfully terminated as far as God is concerned in Christ, and His righteousness appropriated to you the moment you accepted Jesus as your Saviour. It is now up to you as a Christian to believe that fact and begin to live a life of victory - replacing the

sinful habits with the righteous habits, in character with the nature of Jesus Christ; that is by the act “putting off and putting on.” Paul to the Corinthians said:

2Cor 5: 17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ. *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

For Example the Sinful Habit Pattern May be Stealing:

The action required: (a) Put off stealing

(b) Put on working and giving

A Scripture to demonstrate this is found in Ephesians:

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labour, working with his hands the things which are good that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Paul Also Lists the Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, :23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Note: The word “Spirit” begins with a capitol. This is because the scripture refers to the Holy “Spirit, not our human spirit. For easy understanding the fruit of the Spirit are set out as follows:

Gal 5:22

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith

Gal 5:23

- Meekness
- Temperance

There is an Answer to be found in the Bible for all Sinful Habits.

There is a Biblical answer for all sin habits. Therefore have confidence in the Scriptures. Read them, study them, live them, do them and experience the joy and satisfaction that comes with overcoming the old man and living in the power of the new man. **James 1:22 But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only.**

Cleansing by the Blood and by the Word

Both the blood of Jesus and the Word of God are instruments of cleansing with needing to understand the functions of each. The two following scriptures are examples:

Rev 1:5... unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood...

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.

- The difference between the cleansing by the blood of Jesus and the cleansing by the Word of God as described by these two verses of Scripture is:
- **The Blood** of our Saviour Jesus Christ washes us from our sins **legally**. In other words the blood of Jesus, as a result of His death on Calvary covers all sin and when we call on His name in repentance the Father sees that blood covering and immediately grants us forgiveness.
- This brings (restores) us to redemptive standing with God, who then imputes the righteousness of Christ to us. Having a realization of our legal standing of justification by faith in the accomplishment of the Lord Jesus on our behalf is to be a conviction of our conscience. Paul in his epistle to the Hebrews speaks of the power of the blood to purify our conscience:

Heb 9:4 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Rom 4:25-5:1).

- **The Word** cleanses us from our sins in **practice**. (The works of the flesh or habitual sins.) This is a continual process, like the washing of our natural body every day.

Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy Word. Paul to the Corinthians says:

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

Consider also

Eph 5:26 That He (Jesus Christ) sanctify and cleanse it (the church: you and I) with the washing of the Word.

Therefore in **Water Baptism** the purpose of God in washing and cleansing us from our sins is signified and made real to the repentant, believing obedient sinner.

Old Testament Types of Water Baptism

1. Circumcision: The act of circumcision as commanded by God to Abraham was a type of water baptism in that it was the **literal cuffing off of the flesh** of the children of Israel.

- It follows then that the Old Testament act of circumcision must have a New Testament parallel. That parallel is water baptism and the cutting off of the flesh parallel, is the termination of the power of the **old man** as described previously and shown to us in Romans chapter 6.
- Jesus Himself was circumcised on the 8th day after His birth, at which point His name was given (invoked upon) to Him. (Luke 2:21)

2) Baptism of a Nation: We see the whole nation of Israel **baptized** in shadow form by their crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22)

Paul refers to this in I Cor 10: 1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea.

:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

As the children of Israel were escaping from Egypt (which in the Scriptures is a type of this world or a type of the flesh life), it follows that by crossing the Red Sea, they were cutting off or being separated from the world. This is exactly what the New Testament water baptism is all about.

3) Baptism of Naaman the Leper

Naaman was captain of the army of the king of Syria and also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper. The king on being told of Elijah the prophet in the land of Israel sends Naaman unto the king of Israel to be healed of him. Eventually Naaman is brought unto Elijah. We take up the account in the Scriptures:

2Kings 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

:10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

:11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

- :12 *Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.*
- :13 *And his servants came near, and spoke unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee *do some* great thing, wouldest thou not have done *it*? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?*
- :14 *Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*
- :15 *And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.*
- :16 *But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take *it*; but he refused.*

Following the baptism of Naaman, Naaman returns to the house of Elijah. Note the works of faith towards God promised of Naaman signifying a changed life and direction.

- 2Kings 5:17 *And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.*
- :18 *In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.*

Jesus Commands an Invoking of a Triune Name in Baptism:

Matthew 24:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

<p>Explanation: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not names: They are titles</p>
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Employing the Principle of Allowing Scripture to Interpret Scripture...

We find the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost is given and manifested in one tripart name expressing all three's involvement in man's redemption.

In the Book of Acts, the Apostles never baptized in water anyone in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Consider the Book of Acts

At Jerusalem: Acts 2:38 Then said Peter unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ.

At Samaria: Acts 8:16 (For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: Only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus)

The house of Cornelius: Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord

The disciples at Ephesus: Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

In our service to God: In all aspects of Christian service there is only one name by which we are commanded to do all things:

Col 3:17 *and whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him*

Conclusions to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

- **The Father's Name :** Lord
- **The Son's Name :** Jesus
- **The Holy Ghost's name:** Christ

The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is not the object of our study. The Bible student is encouraged to search out through the Word the revelation of God's redemptive name.

Returning once More to Jesus' baptism

Matt 3:16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him and He saw the Spirit of God Descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him.

:17 and lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

Explanation

- Jesus who thirty years before had been born of the Holy Ghost now in baptism is confirmed the Son of God.
- Baptism of the believer who has been born of the Spirit (John 3:5-6) is confirmed a son or daughter of God in baptism. In other words the Father is confirming His acceptance of us legally into the position of a son or daughter in His great family, as we take upon ourselves His mighty name, and His nature, our new nature.

Note: You are confirmed a son/daughter, not made a son/daughter, for you are born a son or daughter at conversion (though a babe) and belief in Christ.

Baptism in Water is Essential to our Ministry and Service before God

Jesus - Following His baptism, entered into His ministry, fulfilling His commission. (Luke 4:18)

Paul - Was commanded of the Lord to be baptized that he may then serve the Lord fulfilling the commission given him. (Acts 22:12-16)

Throughout the book of Acts; wherever people were baptized, it was that they may enter into the calling of God upon their lives, serving God in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the power of His resurrection. Baptism in water is therefore essential to service. And baptism in water should be entered into with the one being baptized doing so with a vision within his/her heart of serving the Lord Jesus in the church and community in which God has planted them.

How are we to Approach Water Baptism?

To gain the maximum experience in ones baptism the Christian must go into the water of baptism expecting to be blessed of God.

From Your Perspective

It is that you may fulfill Gods will, or be baptized because the Scriptures say to be baptized - you may also have other considerations: You wish to please God; you wished to be blessed of God; you wish to fulfill the demands of righteousness; you wish to be an example to others.

From God's Perspective

- It is that He may **meet** with you in your baptism and **bless** you, then **lead** you on in your walk of righteousness into further blessing.

- The blessing you receive is in direct proportion to the expectation you have. Therefore enter the waters of baptism expecting to meet with God and be blessed by Him.
- Remembering that God's prime purpose towards us is always for our good and as baptism is a public service, you can be assured that you will not be embarrassed in any way when you are baptized, and those officiating only desire to be a support to you as the instruments of the Lord Jesus in carrying out the service.
- The nature of God is symbolized by that of the dove. His desire is to release us from the effects of our past life - to heal inner scars and wounds; that have lain open in our inner being for what could be many years - to remove the guilt of sin, that has loaded us down over the years- to release us from the bondage of the habit of sin. The result of this is joy unspeakable.
- God may also speak at this time through His prophets or through the word of knowledge or a word of wisdom after the fashion of the baptism of Jesus and the Father speaking to Him. Who can limit God?
- God may also wish to baptize you in the Holy Spirit simultaneously if you are not currently partaking of that gift. Many have been so blessed in their baptism.

Conclusion

- As we approach the experience of water baptism we really do need to know what it is all about. God can only build on a foundation of knowledge - that is why He has given us His Word and empowered different ones in His body to teach us.
- As we approach God knowing (as much as it is possible) the Bible teaching on baptism, God is surely able to respond to our heart's cry to know Him in a far greater and fulfilling way by meeting with you, in your baptism.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him...



Points To Remember

Summary

1. Water baptism is commanded of both Jesus and the Apostles.
2. Bible water baptism is by complete immersion.
3. All repentant believers are eligible for water baptism.
4. Water baptism comes after enlightenment from the Word of it's necessity
5. Jesus was baptized in water - He sets the pattern for the believer.
6. Water baptism is the identification with Jesus' death burial and resurrection.
7. The power of the **old man is destroyed** in water baptism.
8. Habits are dealt with at water baptism.
9. We are to walk in resurrection life cleansed and free from the power of sin.
10. Old Testament types of water baptisms: a) Circumcision b) Baptism of the nation of Israel in the Red Sea.
11. The redemptive name of the Lord Jesus Christ is involved in baptism.
12. The believer in Christ may be baptized in the Holy Spirit before, at or following water baptism.
13. Approach water baptism with an expectancy and confidence.
14. Be understanding of the scriptures in relation to water baptism. God builds on a foundation of knowledge of His Word.
15. God rewards those who diligently seek him and are obedient to His commandments.

