

# TOPIC 2.1

## TOPIC 2.1- THE PURPOSE, PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BAPTISM



### THE KEY LEARNING OUTCOME:

- Explore the different types of baptismal (water and holy spirit) for Christians and be informed or guided of the process of obtaining these.

### TOPIC 2.1.1- WATER BAPTISM

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE LESSON:

- i. Learner will be able to define what water baptism is.
- ii. Learner will be able to explain the significance of water baptism in the life of the believer.
- iii. Learner will be able to explain how an individual is baptized and who can be baptized.

#### INTRODUCTION

##### **Acts 19:4 (NIV)**

“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.”

##### **Luke 3:21 (NIV)**

“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened.”

Water Baptism is also known as “the Baptism of repentance” which was introduced by John the Baptist (Acts 19:4).

Jesus himself, was water baptized by John the Baptist, yet he had no sin (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:9; Luke 3:21).

Water baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you already are a believer (Matthew 28: 19). Baptism does not save you, only your faith in Christ can save you.

Water baptism is not a requirement for salvation. Not being baptized does not mean that a believer will not enter into heaven.

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## Additional scripture references / case studies of people being Baptised:

- Acts 8:12- People of Samaria Baptised after receiving and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.
- Acts 9:18- Paul was Baptised.
- Acts 16:15- Lydia and her family get Baptised in Philippi.
- Acts 16:32- The jailer and his family got Baptised.

### **Acts 18:8 (NKJV)**

*“Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”*

## 1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

- Baptism is a God ordained symbolic expression of our heart’s appeal to God.
- Baptism is a public declaration of the work of Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished within us.
- Water baptism is a public symbol and declaration of our connection to the body of Christ and gives a real sense of being joined with other believers in a communal journey of perfection in Christ.
- Water Baptism is a public declaration that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a practical public confession of your faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ.
- It is the next step after salvation and repentance and is an important foundation for Christian life.
- Water Baptism is a practical demonstration of the spiritual reality that has already taken place in your life.
- Water Baptism is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. The old life gets buried and we rise to walk in new life with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Baptism is like a wedding ring. It is the external expression or symbol of the commitment you have already made in your heart.
- It is a symbol of our personal and public identification and union with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:12)
- It is meant to show the world that you love, trust and have your hope in Jesus Christ. Water baptism is a statement to everyone who sees that you have trusted Christ for your salvation, and that you are committed to Him.
- Going into water unites us with Christ in His death. Coming out of the water, we are resurrected into newness of life. Going under the water is symbolic of the death and burial of the old life of sin. Coming up out of the water is symbolic of the miraculous resurrection. It is symbolic of God raising you from the dead as He did Christ. Sins are washed away. We start on a clean slate (Romans 6:1-5)
- Baptism confirms our position in Christ and also affirms the blessings of God upon us, as His children.
- Water Baptism confirms our spiritual union to the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). It is the practical and natural demonstration of the spiritual baptism that took place when we were born again.

## 2. HOW IS WATER BAPTISM DONE?

### **Matthew 3:16 (NKJV)**

*“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.”*

The word "Baptism" is derived from the Greek word, "Baptismo" which means "To fully immerse or submerge."

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)**

*"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."*

When a person is water baptized, they get fully submerged under water and are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Thus, the believer gets fully submerged and then brought up again, symbolizing death and resurrection.

**3. WHO MAY BE BAPTIZED?**

**Acts 8:12 (NIV)**

*"But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."*

Any person who has made the decision to follow Christ and thus, has been saved, may be water baptized. One has to already be a believer in order to be baptized.

**4. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WATER?**

- Water is an agent that used for washing. Baptism is symbolic of the washing of our sins.
- Water is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we lay down the flesh and start a new life in the Spirit and a new walk with Christ.
- Water is a natural element that is essential for the sustaining of all life.

**5. SUMMARY**

- Water Baptism is a demonstration of our obedience, faith and love for the Lord, Jesus Christ.
- Water Baptism is a symbol to us identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Water Baptism is a public declaration of our promise to not continue walking in sin.  
It's a declaration that we are no longer slaves to sin.
- Water Baptism is a practical demonstration of our spiritual reality, and it is a testimony that we have passed from the old life of sin into the new life with Jesus Christ.
- Water Baptism is a symbol of our connection to the wider body of Christ.