

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Two **WATER BAPTISM**

Pretend you have NEVER HAD any teaching, from any church or denomination concerning water baptism.

Pretend also that you have been stranded on a deserted island. One day a Bible, protected by a waterproof wrapping, washes up on the island. Remember, you have never been taught on the subject of water baptism. Using ONLY THE BIBLE, what mental picture would you get of the mode of water baptism?

Would you picture people being sprinkled with a few drops of water, having water poured over them, or being immersed or dipped into the water?

Remember, you are completely untaught and therefore unprejudiced.

Let's look at some scripture passages describing some people being baptized.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him IN JORDAN, confessing their sins.

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:

Matthew 3:5, 6, 16

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they WENT DOWN BOTH INTO the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:36-39

Looking at these scriptures, we can readily see that BOTH the one being baptized AND THE ONE doing the baptizing went into the water. This certainly WOULD NOT be necessary if SPRINKLING were being done, or even POURING.

We see an interesting scripture in the Gospel of John.

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was MUCH WATER THERE: and they came, and were baptized.

John 3:23

If sprinkling were the mode, A PAN of water would be sufficient for hundreds; somewhat more would be needed for pouring. **Much** water would be needed for immersion. Notice the scripture said that John was baptizing in this certain place because there WAS MUCH WATER.

Of what is water baptism a type? Again, on such an important matter, let us consult the Apostle Paul.

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

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.

For if we have been PLANTED together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his RESURRECTION:

Romans 6:3-5

Fundamental Facts -Lesson 2-Page 2

BURIED with him in baptism, wherein also ye **ARE RISEN** with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. **Colossians 2:12**

Baptism is **A SYMBOL OF DEATH, BURIAL** and resurrection. In fact, it is a symbol that we have **DIED TO SIN** and now the old man is being buried and then we are raised to walk in newness of life. How could you get these symbols from sprinkling or pouring? The obvious answer is that you cannot.

Can you just for a moment imagine taking your deceased loved one to the cemetery, standing the casket upright on the ground, the minister pouring a cupful of dirt over the casket, and then you all leave? When someone asks you what has taken place, you tell them you have just **buried** your deceased loved one. They would think you insane. You **CANNOT BURY** a person with a **FEW GRAINS** or even **A CUPFUL** of dirt.

To be obedient in following our Lord, Jesus Christ, in water baptism causes there to be a certain sacredness about the service.

Sprinkling or pouring for baptism is the **DEVIL'S** counterfeit of God's plan. They are a **SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE**.

Does God care if we do not follow His instructions explicitly?

According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

Exodus 25:9, 40

*Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou **MAKE ALL THINGS** according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

Hebrews 8:5

God makes it very clear that He wants His patterns followed.

Is baptism necessary for all believers? Is baptism by immersion necessary to get to heaven?

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

*Teaching them to **OBSERVE ALL THINGS** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20***

*He that believeth **AND IS** baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

Mark 16:16

Jesus **INSISTED** that John baptize him in water. Notice then the reaction of the Father.

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:

*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom **I AM WELL PLEASED**.*

Matthew 3:16-17

Fundamental Facts-Lesson 2—Page 3

If it was necessary for the Son of God to be baptized in water to fulfill all righteousness and please the Father, then **SURELY** it is necessary for us to be baptized.

Baptism does not free us from sin, the **BLOOD OF JESUS** does this.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Baptism gives us a **CLEAR** conscience toward God because it is an act of **OBEDIENCE** to His command.

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 3:21

There is no scriptural basis for baptizing infants.

Then Peter said unto them, 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. Acts 2:38

Baptism **FOLLOWS** repentance. I will baptize any infant who will stand and give a clear cut testimony of repentance from his or her sins.

WHAT IS THE FORMULA BY WHICH WE BAPTIZE?

The answer to this question is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT**. Many churches, even denominations, have split over the formula of water baptism, or, in other words, what the one doing the baptizing says when baptizing the candidate.

I have always believed Jesus knew what He was doing when He gave us the following instruction:

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **NAME OF THE FATHER**, and of the **SON**, and of the **HOLY GHOST**: Matthew 28:19*

I would like to share with you a formula for water baptism that I have used for many years.

First, let me say I believe God revealed this to me after much prayer and concern over the number of people making shipwreck of their souls because of the confusion over which name to use when baptizing.

As I am about to immerse the baptismal candidate in water, I first use the person's full name, then add, "upon the profession of your faith, and in the name of Jesus Christ, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, amen."

You see, it is **in** the **name**, or **AUTHORITY**, of Jesus Christ that we baptize. And it is **INTO** the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost we are baptizing.

Let me word it another way. I baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but I am doing this in the name (authority) of Jesus Christ.

We need to realize it is Jesus who **TOLD US TO BAPTIZE**. We need to also remember that He told us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

If someone approaches the believer who has been baptized with this formula and says, "You have not been baptized in the name of Jesus," the baptized person can answer, "Yes, I have been baptized in the name of Jesus."

If someone says, "You have not been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost," the baptized person can answer, "Yes, I have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

