

# Water Baptism

By M.A. Howe



That water baptism was always administered **after** a person repented of sins and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ can easily be seen by anyone who will search God's word with an open heart. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "He that believeth **and** is baptized, shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned," Mark 16:16. One can **never find** in God's Holy Word where anyone was baptized **first**, then later repented and believed. Baptism always followed repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. There was **first** a vital contact with a living Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist required repentance first before he would baptize anyone. To some who came to him to be baptized he said: "'Oh generation of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance," Luke 3:7-8A. He brought a stern rebuke to those who claimed Abraham for their father and saw no need for repentance. So today many claim as their defense that they have a religious background, but if the "fruits worthy of repentance" are not there, a vital experience of turning from sin, self, the world and the devil, if this has never been experienced in your life, what would John the Baptist say to you if he were here? His words are recorded for all to read.

Our Lord Jesus preached repentance and declared to some who thought they were more righteous than others, "I tell you nay, but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," Luke 13:5. Jesus Christ taught His disciples to preach repentance and remission of sins, Luke 24:47. This He taught just before He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. Note that first there was to be repentance, then remission of sins.

We can certainly see that this was the order maintained by His disciples by reading the several accounts of conversions resulting from His apostles and disciples preaching after He went up into heaven.

In Acts 2:38 we read what the apostle Peter told the people in answer to their question, "What must we do?" "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." Again, note the order – **repentance first - then water baptism.**

This order is maintained by Philip at Samaria also, Acts 8:5-12. First the Samaritans believed, **and then they were baptized**, Acts 8:12. The Ethiopian eunuch also was baptized after he believed, Acts 8:35-39. This order is also followed by Ananias who baptized Paul after he repented and believed, Acts 9:17-18; Acts 22:6-16. The household of Cornelius was commanded to be baptized after they repented and had received the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues and magnifying God, Acts 10:44-48. There are many today who have received the baptism in the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues and have never been baptized as a believer, but have been sprinkled as a baby. If Peter was here today, he would command them to be baptized. His words are recorded for us to obey and we shall be judged by the WORD.

In Acts 16:14-15 we read of Lydia whose heart the Lord opened - she and her household were then baptized. Has the Lord opened your heart? We read of the same order in the account of the conversion of the jailer of Philippi. First he believed and repented after he and his household heard the "word of the Lord," Acts 16:30-33 – then he was baptized he and all his straightway. There is no room for argument that Paul and Silas baptized babies at Philippi as the Bible is clear here that Paul and Silas "spoke unto him (the jailer) and to all that were in his house, the word of the Lord."

Next we read in Acts 18:8 that "many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized. Then we read of Paul coming to Ephesus, Acts 19:1-6, and finding about twelve men who lacked a vital Holy Ghost experience. (Do you lack one too?) Paul inquired of them as to what

type of water baptism they had. Upon their statement that they had John the Baptist's baptism, the apostle Paul then baptized them over again in the name of the Lord Jesus, he laid hands on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Paul first taught them to believe on Jesus Christ, verse 4 and 5, and then he baptized them. This is God's order! Who dares to preach and practice it otherwise? There is only one gospel. Paul writes of those who would pervert the gospel of Christ (change or twist it). Paul says "though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:6-8. Which gospel do you obey dear friend, the one committed to the apostles or another one?

Now we shall look into the mode of baptism. Was it by sprinkling, pouring or immersion? First may we say there is absolutely no scripture that states babies or little children were ever sprinkled? Many try to make such a doctrine by twisting the scripture or trying to read into it something it never says. Mark 10:14-17, Matthew 19:13 tells us very plainly that our Lord Jesus laid His hands on them, took them up in His arms and blessed them. Nowhere in scripture does it ever teach that our Lord or His apostles or disciples ever put any water on infants or children. Jesus said of them, "of such is the Kingdom of God." He told grownups to humble themselves as a little child or they would never enter God's Kingdom." Have you ever obeyed this?

Our Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and John baptized by immersion. We read in John 3:23, "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim because there was much water there and they came and were baptized." You can sprinkle many babies and adults with only a glass of water - but John required "much water." The very word baptize comes from a Greek word baptizo which means to dip or plunge. But even if we do not consult the Greek, if our hearts are open we can see the only scriptural way is to be "buried with Christ," Colossians 2:12.

Matthew 3:16 says, "And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water." Have you followed His example?

In Acts 8:35-39 we read of the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip. Verse 38 reads, "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." Why go into the water if he only needed sprinkling or a little water poured on him? Then the scripture says, "And when they were come up out of the water," Verse 39-A. This should be plain enough for any honest heart to believe and would have to be twisted to mean anything else than what it says.

The position of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is given in several scriptures and I shall quote a few. "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God," Col. 3:3. "It is a faithful saying: for if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him (Jesus)," 2 Tim. 2:11. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 6: 11. Other scriptures along this line are Romans 6:2, 1 Peter 2:24, Gal. 2:20.

The next position after death to sin should be burial with Christ, Romans 6:3-4A, says, "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."

The third position is given in the last part of the 4th verse of this chapter, "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." This is the resurrection life which a believer is to receive when he repents, believes in the blood of Jesus Christ, is buried in water in His name and receives the promised Holy Ghost which is a gift to all who obey God's Word, Acts 2:38 and Acts 5:32.

Many people do not know what it means to be dead to sin, to be buried in water with Christ, to receive the blessed Holy Ghost, to live in newness of life, to be seated with Him in heavenly places, Eph. 2:6. Do you, dear reader, know what it means to be "saved by grace through faith in Jesus?" Ephesians 2:8. Do you know that salvation is a gift of God? "Not of works lest you should boast?" Have you received this salvation? Are YOU SAVED?

But this faith must be given to you from our Lord Jesus, Gal. 3:22. He is the author of faith, Heb. 12:2. This faith is given to us when we hear and believe God's Word. It cannot be produced by your own works apart from an act of God in your life. Jesus gives faith to those who humble themselves and believe. Luke 17:5-10, Gal.3:22. Real faith is called "the faith of the Son of God," Gal. 2:16, Gal. 2:20. Do you have this faith? "Without faith it is impossible to please God," Heb. 11 :6. No matter what else you try you can't please God until you have "the faith of Jesus Christ." This faith which comes from our Lord Jesus produces works - "Faith without works is dead," James 2:26B. So one can have "dead faith." But why have dead faith? - Repent of dead faith, dead works, dead religion, and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, be baptized by burial with Him and receive the promised life from God, even His Holy Spirit - "for the promise is unto ~, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

It is recorded in Matthew 28:19 that our Lord Jesus told His followers to baptize in the NAME (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. When we read the book of Acts, which is an account of the deeds of the followers of Jesus after He was taken up into heaven, we soon discover that His disciples did not use the term "Father, Son and Holy Ghost", but used the name of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. You Can read this in the following scriptures: Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:47, Acts 19:5. Peter, Philip and Paul all used our Saviour's Name which Paul tells us is a

name which is above every name, Phil. 2:9. We are told that whatever we do in word or deed do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, "giving thanks to God and the father by Him." Col. 3:17 The whole family in heaven and earth is named after Him, Ephesians 3:14-15. How happy we should be to take His Name in water baptism who suffered so much for us. Paul says if we suffer with Him we shall also rule with Him, 2 Tim. 2:12. We also read that it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but to suffer for His sake, Phil. 1:29.

But why did our Lord say to baptize in the "name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost", and His followers used the name of the Lord Jesus? Simply because they understood the spiritual meaning of what Jesus said. Our Lord calls the believers sheep in John 10; certainly no believer thinks he must eat grass. Jesus is telling us we must be harmless followers of the great shepherd. The followers of our Lord understood Jesus and obeyed Him after He taught them, being with them forty days after He arose from the dead.

The following scriptures explain Matthew 28:19 - the disciples did not disobey our Lord Jesus as some teach, but rather understood what He meant.

#### MATTHEW 28:19

Father  
Luke 10:21  
Jesus called the Father  
LORD

Son  
Luke 1:30-31  
The angel called the Son  
JESUS

Holy Spirit  
1 Peter 1:11  
The Spirit is called  
CHRIST

Other scriptures you can read are Isaiah 64:8, 1 Chron. 29:10, Gal. 4:6, 1 John 4:15, Acts 8:37, etc. This is why water baptism should always be administered in the Name of our Lord, fulfilling Matt. 28:19.

Not many years after the twelve apostles were dead, men arose who used the term "Father, Son and Holy Ghost." This is the term used by the Roman Catholic group and most Protestant groups. The Roman Church covered up the name of our Lord Jesus Christ by not using it in "word and deed" and the next step was to get the people to pray to Mary instead of to our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said "No man can come to the father except by me." John 14:6. What a clever trick of satan to blind men so they would not use the name of Jesus Christ in "word and deed" as God's Word says. Satan is afraid of that powerful name. It is that name of Jesus whereby satan is cast out. "In my name (Jesus said) shall they cast out devils," Mark 16:17.

Have you, dear friend, taken that lovely name of Jesus in water baptism? It is the only name given among men whereby we must be saved, Acts 4:10-12. It may cost you friends, relatives, position, prestige. You may be despised and forsaken by men, even by Christian friends. God's Word says this may happen. Isaiah 66:5 says, "Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at His word, your brethren that hated you and cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified, but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. " Jesus came to His own and His own did not receive Him. The servant is not greater than His master. It is better to obey God than men, Acts 5:29. When you in humbleness of heart repent, believe in Jesus Christ and His blood as your righteousness- be buried in His name. The glory of God will be your portion.

Water baptism by immersion was administered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38 says so as well as Acts 22:16, "and now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash



away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Please read also 1 Peter 3:18-21 Luke 24:45-47 and John 19:22-23. Water alone cannot remit sins. One must repent, believe with the heart, Romans 10:8-10. Repentance is a gift from God, Acts 11:18. The water, the Blood of Jesus and the Holy Ghost are in agreement, 1 John 5:8. So when you believe in the shed blood, are buried in the water for remission of sins in Jesus' name, the promise to you is that you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:38-39.

Will you know when you receive the Holy Ghost? You surely will know! So will those around you know! Acts 8:18, Acts 10:45-46. Has your life been changed by our Lord Jesus? Have old things passed away? Are all things new? 2 Cor. 5:17. Are you born again of water and the Spirit? John 3:3-5. Do you have eternal life NOW? "He that has the Son has life - he that hath not the Son hath not life," 1 John 5:12. Do you have the witness of God's Holy Spirit that you are a child of God? Romans 8:16. These are IMPORTANT questions, and they are scriptural questions. Only YOU can answer them. It's important that you give an honest answer. Your soul's destiny depends on a correct answer and obedience to God's Word.

You can obtain spiritual help by writing to the author of this tract or to the person whose name appears at the foot of this tract. Do not delay, our Lord Jesus is coming SOON. "Then they that gladly received His word were baptized," Acts 2:41.

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**About Brother Howe**

Dr. Maynard A. Howe, Sr. was the original founder of Cornerstone Ministries (f.k.a. Men's For Missions), served as a pastor of his own church and was a missionary in Canada and other third world countries. Through the years of his ministry he initiated and coordinated the construction of numerous buildings for orphans and widows and administered financial, human and educational resources to help construct churches and schools. Dr. Howe was very instrumental in providing hundreds of tons of clothing, household goods, buses, trucks, motor cycles, automobiles, and bicycles to native missionaries in Canada and numerous third world countries. He also mentored and counseled hundreds of pastors and missionaries and ministered to thousands of people in eight different countries for over forty years. Maynard A. Howe received his honorary Doctor's degree, was married to his wife, Dorothy, for 68 years and fathered eight children. Dr. Howe lived from February 21, 1909 to October 6, 2001.

## God Ruling in Peace From Your Center

This booklet was given to you in the hope that the information contained inside would stir you and lead you to a deeper walk with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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