

# BAPTISM: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY? (1)

By Keith Greer

In previous weeks, we have studied "**HEAR**", "**BELIEVE**", "**REPENT**", and "**CONFESS**". We will now conclude this series of studies with the subject of "**BAPTISM**".

Baptism is mentioned many times in the Bible. So much has been written on the subject, and, yet, it is often the most misunderstood part of man's salvation.

Although there are various types of baptism mentioned in the Bible, the confusion comes about when men do not look at what God would have us do. After all, "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

(1). **BAPTISM UNTO MOSES.** In 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, the apostle Paul wrote, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

When the children of Israel left Egypt, the angel of God guided them by a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. As they crossed the Red Sea, with the wall of water on their right and their left, they were "buried" as they went across to the other side. God, through Moses, told the children of Israel what to do and by their obedience they were saved from the Egyptian army. If they had not obeyed, they would have perished. (Exodus 14:10-31)

(2.) **BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE.** In Malachi 4:4-6, the children of Israel were to "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

"Elijah the prophet" was to be none other than John the Baptist, and in Mark's account of the life of Christ, Mark starts with "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, there comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose." (Mark 1:1-7)

John preached that they should repent of their sins, turn to God, and demonstrate their willingness to repent by submitting to baptism. By being baptized, they were also demonstrating their willingness to submit to the authority of God. Although Jesus had no sin, He was baptized of John in order

to fulfill all righteousness. (Matthew 3:13-17)

(3). **BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was given twice in the New Testament.

First, it was given on the day of Pentecost to give power to the apostles to preach the gospel (Acts 2:1-4). Jesus had promised a Comforter to the apostles (John 14–16), He commanded them to preach the gospel to every person (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16), and the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and given the power to preach on the day of Pentecost. (Ac t s 2: 1-4) Holy Spirit baptism was a PROMISE not a command. People obey commands – not promises. Christ our Lord promised this baptism to the apostles and it was fulfilled, Acts 1:5. (cont.) \*\*\*