

WATER BAPTISM...

By Keith Greer

Now we look at the other side of the coin—the teaching on **WATER BAPTISM**. Pay close attention to how it **CONTRASTS** with what we just discussed regarding Holy Spirit baptism.

Element—water. “...See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” {Acts 8:36-38} Every conversion in Acts ended at the WATER. The only element used was WATER.

A Command—not a promise. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” {Mark 16:16} “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.” {Acts 10:47,48} When the Pentecost audience asked, “what must we do,” Peter answered, “repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins.” {verse 38} We obey commands—not promises!

Essential for salvation. “Who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” {1 Peter 3:20,21} Can a person be born again, enter God’s family, and receive salvation from past sins without water baptism? Absolutely not! Show me one NT Christian who was not baptized in water.

For All. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” {Matthew 28:19} When Christ sent the apostles out with the Great Commission, He told them to go into ALL THE WORLD. All men sin, and all men need the same thing—Christ’s blood. It can only be reached through the baptismal waters one enters when he obeys the gospel of Christ {Romans 6:1-7; Colossians 2:11-13}.

Administered by men. “So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” {Acts 8:38} Who baptized the eunuch? It was Philip, the one who had taught him the gospel. Philip did not call for an apostle; he took care of the matter himself. A close examination of all conversions shows the believers being baptized immediately by the ones who had instructed them.

Rejoicing and peace. “Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.” {Acts 8:39} “Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.” {Acts 16:34} Notice when the jailer rejoiced—not after he believed, but after he and his family were baptized!

Examine these two articles carefully and see the contrast between Holy Spirit Baptism and Water Baptism. Remember the apostle Paul's words—"*there is ONE baptism.*" {*Ephesians 4:5*} Which baptism do we receive today? The majority of the world leans toward Holy Spirit baptism. Yet, there is no command that calls for it. None of the nine conversions documented in Acts mentions Holy Spirit baptism, because it was not administered! The only baptism necessary today is WATER BAPTISM. Why? It puts one into contact with the blood, *Romans 7:1-7*. It's the only one that the operation of God takes place removing the guilt of one's sins, *Colossians 2:11-13*. Honesty and an open minded study of these two subjects makes it clear WATER is still necessary today and HOLY SPIRIT is not! Questions?
