

Five Minute Foundation Series



6. BAPTISMS

In Hebrews 6 we are urged to grow to maturity in our Christian lives, and then it goes on to give us a list of some of the truths that will lay a foundation in our lives. The first is repentance and faith in God – we have looked at those. Another important truth given in these verses is - ‘teachings about baptisms.’

1. Baptism in Water

The first is baptism in water. Baptism wasn't a new idea to the Jewish people. They had ritual cleansing baths outside the temple. In fact we saw many of these in Israel during our visit. However these were for outward cleansing. What was different now was that baptism was a sign of inward repentance and cleansing.

When Peter preached the gospel on the Day of Pentecost he said:

Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

And on that day 3000 people were baptised, showing they had inwardly repented of their sin and were committing themselves to the One whose name was used – the name of Jesus. And that was the pattern in the New Testament.

Paul explained the meaning of baptism further in Romans:

- When you go down into the water it is just as if you have died with Christ and been buried with him – your old life is gone.
- When you come out of the water it is as if you have been raised with Christ - a new life has begun.

If you are a believer and have never been baptised, it is important that you do so. This is following the example and instruction of Jesus.

2. Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The second baptism is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Not only do we need forgiveness, we need power to live this new life. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us power.

- Jesus himself received the power of the Holy Spirit on the day he was baptised in water. As he came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit came upon him. From then on he was dependant on the Holy Spirit for all he did: his preaching and teaching, the healings and miracles.
- Just before Jesus returned to Heaven, he affirmed this.

Acts 1:4-5 “Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised in the Holy Spirit.”

And this baptism with the Holy Spirit would give them power to be witnesses for Jesus. After Peter preached the message on forgiveness on the Day of Pentecost, he said,

Acts 2:39 “The promise is for you and your children and all who are far off.”

This promise was for us – we need the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. So many Christians try to live in their own strength – we can’t and we weren’t meant to. But you need to ask. Jesus said,

Luke 11:13 “How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

3. Baptism into the Body of Christ

We will look at one more baptism and that is baptism into the Body of Christ. Of course this is linked to the other two baptisms. The Church is described as a spiritual body, with Christ as the Head.

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

When you and I believe and receive the Holy Spirit, we belong to the Body of Christ. It is as if we are baptised or fully immersed into it. You belong, and you are just as valuable as any other member.

The amazing thing is that wherever you go in the world you will find other members of the same body. Although you may not speak the same language or have the same culture, you have the same Spirit, the Holy Spirit. As it says in Galatians 3, we are all sons and daughters of God and we are one in Christ.