

The One Baptism

While there are many different baptisms mentioned in the Bible, by 63 A.D., there was only one (Ephesians 4:5). Which baptism is this, and why is it so important?

Consider the four baptisms found in Matthew 3:1-17.

- The baptism of John is mentioned in Matthew 3:1-8. John was a prophet who baptized people in the Jordan River. He urged people to confess their sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4). This baptism was limited to the Jews and was designed to prepare the way for the Messiah. By the time Paul reached Ephesus, it was no longer in force (Ephesians 19:1-5).
- The baptism of fire is mentioned in Matthew 3:11. This refers to the judgment that wicked Jews would receive from Jesus (Matthew 3:7-10, 12). This is not a baptism to desire!
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is also mentioned in Matthew 3:11. This is a reference to a figurative and miraculous outpouring for the Holy Spirit. This occurred both on the apostles and the household of Cornelius (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4; Acts 10:44-45). This baptism would serve as a sign from heaven that salvation was available because of the redemptive work of Jesus (Acts 2:21). It also gave the apostles the miraculous power they needed to confirm the gospel.
- The baptism of Jesus is mentioned in Matthew 3:13-17. While John's baptism was for the remission of sins, Jesus had no sin! Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" and manifest Himself to Israel before beginning His ministry (Matthew 3:15; John 1:29-33).
- None of these baptisms are the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5.

The "one baptism" is the baptism in water, in the name of Jesus, for the remission of sins.

- It is for those who believe in the gospel (Mark 16:15-16).
- It is for those willing to repent and confess Jesus as Lord (Acts 2:38; 8:37).
- It is to be administered by disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).
- It is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4; Acts 10:47-48).
- Through it, we are saved and made disciples (Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 3:21).
- Through it, the saved are added to the one church (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4).
- Through it, we have our sins washed away and call upon the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16).

Conclusion:

Have you submitted to the one baptism?

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