

**“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”**

**Ephesians 4:5**

*Before he was Paul, he was Saul. Before he was a great apostle of the church, he was a great persecutor of the church. Before he began to preach the message of hope in Christ, he preached against the man Christ. From persecutor of the saints, to encourager of the saints, what happened to change Paul’s heart and mind?*

*The bigger, more pressing question however, is it possible to have that kind of change and transformation happen in my life today? Have you ever wished you could be washed clean inside and out? Then we have great news—you can be! God has a plan that can completely wash all your sins away. You can have a new beginning!*

1. Jesus’ last recorded command to His disciples before He ascended back to heaven included three actions they were to take. List them. Matthew 28:19,20

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many times is baptism mentioned in the New Testament?

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3. According to Ephesians 4:5, how many methods of baptism are there?

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*There is only one true baptism. All other so-called baptisms are counterfeits. The word “baptism” comes from the Greek word which means “to dip under or submerge or immerse.” There are eight Greek words in the New Testament used to describe the application of liquids. But among these various words—meaning to sprinkle, to pour, or to immerse—only the one meaning “to immerse” (baptizo) is used to describe baptism.*

### **Why was Jesus baptized?**

*Though Jesus did not need to be, He was baptized for at least three reasons:*

- 1. Jesus wanted to leave an example for us to follow. In His identification with humanity, it was fitting to give an illustration of entering into a life of service and ministry to God.*
- 2. It was time. The baptism of Jesus was the catalyst that began His earthly ministry.*
- 3. Jesus was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness,” that is to say, He is able to give those who cannot be baptized credit for His baptism.*

4. Why was John the Baptist baptizing people at the Jordan River? John 3:23

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5. What form of baptism did Jesus use, and Philip copy? Acts 8:3

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*The Bible states that Jesus went down into the water with John. Clearly, the form of baptism for the early Christian church was by immersion. No other form of baptism is found in Scripture. Therefore, no other form is acceptable.*

6. What does the word baptism mean?

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*It wasn't until the twelfth and thirteenth centuries that other forms of baptism began to creep into the church.*

*James Cardinal Gibbons wrote: “For several centuries after the establishment of Christianity baptism was usually conferred by immersion; but since the twelfth century the practice of baptizing by infusion has prevailed in the Catholic Church, as this manner is attended with less inconvenience than baptism by immersion.... The Church exercises her discretion in adopting the most convenient mode, according to the circumstances of time and place.”*  
*(The Faith of our Fathers, 94th ed., p. 227)*

7. What two actions did Jesus say were necessary in order to be saved? Mark 16:16

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

8. What two types of birth did Jesus say were necessary in order to enter the kingdom of God? John 3:5

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

9. According to Paul, how do we put on Christ? Galatians 3:27

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10. Symbolically what happens when a person is plunged beneath the waters of baptism? Romans 6:4

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11. How are we to “walk” after baptism? Romans 6:4

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*Just as Christ’s baptism marked the beginning of His earthly, public ministry, so baptism marks the beginning of the believer’s new life in Christ. Baptism, to the new believer, is a way of publicly expressing his or her new faith in Christ. The person who is baptized, experiences the “death” of Christ in that we are dead to an old way of living.*

### Three Steps to Prepare for Baptism:

**Repent** - In one of Peter's first sermons after Pentecost, he told the crowd, "Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19).

Repentance means to turn away from one's sin. It's a total change of direction to a new way of living, thinking, and acting.

**Believe** - The Bible says when the eunuch asked Philip what was required to be baptized, Philip responded that he should "believe with all your heart." (Acts 8:28). There must be total belief in Jesus.

**Learn** - The candidate for baptism must be taught the things of Christ. Jesus said, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Making a disciple means to lead a person to become a follower of Jesus. This is more than just a mere knowledge of doctrine, the new disciple is taught the standard of living as exemplified by Christ as He walked here on earth.

*They were all being baptized into the church because as believers in Christ, they were now part of the church! The church is simply those who are called to come out of the world and into Jesus. We come out of the false systems of worship and put our allegiance in Christ. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were baptized into one body, the church." The church is the only organization that is so big it has its body on earth and its head in heaven. When we are baptized, we're not baptized into some narrow earthly organization. The church is God made, not man-made. So when we're baptized, we accept Christ, and we become part of His Bible church, His commandment keeping people on earth.*

Would you like to wash away your sins and live guilt free? Are you willing to follow Jesus all the way in Bible baptism?

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