

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.
Out of Town: Mr. Mark Law and family.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Does the Bible teach a person must be baptized
in the Holy Spirit in order to be saved?

By Derek Long

Despite the claims of many today, the Bible teaches a person must be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Some would have us to believe the baptism which one must receive in order to be saved is to be baptized with the Holy Spirit while others would teach the baptism which one must receive in order to be saved is in water. Which of these two positions is in accordance with what the Bible teaches?

The Bible speaks about being baptized with the Holy Spirit. John described what Jesus would do by saying, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). Jesus promised His apostles, "you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:4-5, NKJV). When Peter describes the conversion of Cornelius to those in Jerusalem, he tells them how, "the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning" (Acts 11:15, NKJV). The Holy Spirit coming upon the household of Cornelius reminded Peter of the promise of Jesus about being baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:16). It is true to say the Bible speaks about Holy Spirit baptism. The fact the Bible speaks about Holy Spirit baptism does not necessarily mean a person must be baptized with the Holy Spirit to be saved. One must examine what the Bible says about Holy Spirit baptism to determine whether it is essential to one's salvation or not.

The Bible speaks about being baptized in water. The Ethiopian eunuch saw water, asked what hindered him from being baptized, confessed his faith in Christ, and was then baptized in water (Acts 8:36-39). Cornelius' household was commanded to be baptized

in water (Acts 10:46-48). 1 Peter 3:20-21 makes a comparison between how Noah's family was saved through water and how baptism saves us today. The similarity between the flood and baptism only makes sense if we are here discussing a baptism in water. Ephesians 5:26 speaks about the church being sanctified and cleansed, "with the washing of water by the word" (NKJV). The Bible teaches people to be baptized in water. Since the Bible speaks of both baptism with the Holy Spirit as well as baptism in water, we cannot answer the question simply on the basis of the Bible speaks about one but not the other for such would be false.

Ephesians 4:5 teaches us there is "one baptism" (NKJV). How can there be just one baptism when we have already demonstrated the Bible speaks of both baptism with the Holy Spirit as well as baptism in water? Ephesians 4:5 is not saying the Bible only mentions one baptism for Hebrews 6:2 will speak about the "doctrine of baptisms" (NKJV) as an elementary principle of Christ. Ephesians 4:5 points out only one baptism was operative at the time Ephesians was being written. For example, the Bible speaks about the baptism of John yet the baptism of John was no longer operative when the book of Ephesians was being written (Acts 19:1-5). Ephesians 4:5 makes it plain both baptism with the Holy Spirit and baptism in water were not both operative at the time Ephesians was being written. If there was only "one baptism" operative when the book of Ephesians was written, which baptism is under consideration (baptism with the Holy Spirit or baptism in water)?

Baptism with the Holy Spirit is something which was promised to a select group of people. Acts 1:4-5 records Jesus promising to baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit. The promise made by Jesus regarding the apostles being baptized with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2:1-4. The only other instance we read of people being baptized with the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is the household of Cornelius. The reason given for them being baptized with the Holy Spirit was to demonstrate, "God has granted to the Gentiles repentance to life" (Acts 11:17-18, NKJV). In neither instance of Holy Spirit baptism which we read about in the New Testament was it for the purpose of salvation. Hence, there is no reason to believe Holy Spirit baptism is the baptism which saves people today.

Baptism in water is the baptism which is connected with people being saved. The household of Cornelius was baptized with the Holy Spirit and yet were still commanded to be baptized in water (Acts 10:46-48). Remember Cornelius was going to be told "words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14, NKJV). Peter did not tell Cornelius' household to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Peter commanded Cornelius' household to be baptized in water. Therefore, it is water baptism which is the baptism connected with people being saved. People were saved between Pentecost and the conversion of Cornelius' household and yet Peter must go back to the events on Pentecost to find another instance of people being baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15). Therefore, Holy Spirit baptism is not the baptism a person must receive in order to be saved. 1 Peter 3:20-21 clearly indicates the baptism which now saves us is baptism in water just as Noah's family was saved through water during the flood. An additional point to remember the baptism Jesus commands for salvation (Mark 16:16) is a baptism administered by man (Matthew 28:18-20). Men administer water baptism but do not administer Holy Spirit baptism. Hence, the baptism which is involved in becoming a disciple of Christ is baptism in water and not baptism with the Holy Spirit.