




GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#129)


Water baptism – how it relates to the other aspects of salvation.

TREES and FORESTS – illustrating TWO perspectives for looking at complex issues:



THE TREE:
Looking at *individual parts* – either a *single part*, or a *comparison* of two or more parts.


"A" or "A" comes before "B"



THE FOREST:
Looking at the *group* – either *all of it* at one time, or using *individual parts* to *represent* all of it.

"THE WHOLE THING" or "A" represents "THE WHOLE THING"


Scripture uses BOTH perspectives when referring to the actions that result in salvation.



THE TREE:

"A" ⇒ "Baptism"

"A" comes before "B" ⇒ "Repentance" comes before "Faith"



THE FOREST:

"THE WHOLE THING" ⇒ "Salvation"

"A" represents "THE WHOLE THING" ⇒ By "Faith" you are "Saved"

THE "PROCESS OF SALVATION":

The **EXTERNAL** CHANGES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE.

God's actions ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What God does in salvation. (including HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM.)

#1 Conviction ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The foundation that makes it possible.

↓

#2 Change ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ Internal changes WE do. ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ External changes WE do. (including WATER BAPTISM.)

↓

#3 Consequences ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What comes afterwards.

WHERE WE ARE

1 HOW DO THE TWO TYPES OF BAPTISM FIT TOGETHER?

[WHAT GOD DOES AND WHAT WE DO.]

God's actions ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What God does in salvation. HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

#1 Conviction ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The foundation that makes it possible.

↓

#2 Change ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ Internal changes... ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ External changes... WATER BAPTISM

↓

#3 Consequences ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What comes afterwards.



TWO TYPES OF BAPTISM

Baptism with the HOLY SPIRIT: Jesus did it – John 1:33; etc. People are NEVER told to do this.

- It's an *internal heart change* that we cannot cause to occur (and we are never told to do so).

Baptism with WATER: People did it – John 1:33; Acts 10:47-18; etc. ✓ John ✓ Apostles ✓ Jesus (thru his followers) ✓ Etc. Jesus commands his followers to do it – Matthew 28:19.

- It's an *external action* that we have the ability to do. It was intended to be a *visible* (public) statement of what occurred *invisibly*, in the heart/mind.

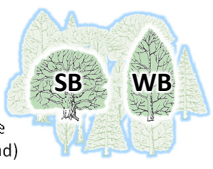
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO?

SPIRIT
baptism

↔ ? ↔

WATER
baptism

The EASY answer: They go together.
Both are part of the process.



The MORE PRECISE answer:
Spirit baptism (what Jesus does on the inside, in the heart/mind)
parallels
Water baptism (what happens on the outside; what people see).

★ **But we cannot always observe the precise connection between them, because...**

It works "Logically": What GOD does occurs before our actions.

First
 Second
 Third
 Fourth

But it occurs in God's realm, not ours.
 We, who belong to the realm of "time and space," do not *sense* or *feel* it; but we choose to *respond*.


BUT

It doesn't always work "Chronologically" (or "Time-wise"): This can work for human activities, but not for "merging" what God does into the time sequence of our actions.

At 10:41 am, I heard the Good News...


At 11:08 am, God sent the Holy Spirit ...

At 2:25 pm, I was baptized...



"Logically" – There is much value in understanding the "logical sequence" of what happens in salvation.

First
 Second
 Third
 Fourth



It helps us to avoid error, false teaching and false conclusions.

- It results in glory to God and prevents sinful attitudes on our part.


... so that no one can boast.
 Ephesians 2:9b (CSB)

For from him and through him and to him are all things.
 To him be the glory forever. Amen.
 Romans 11:36 (CSB)

- It also keeps us responsible for our "human responsibility."

REMINDER: God "will give to each person according to what he has done."
 Romans 2:6 (NIV)

"Chronologically" ("time-wise") – The "interaction" between what God does and what people do does not always occur the way we might expect.



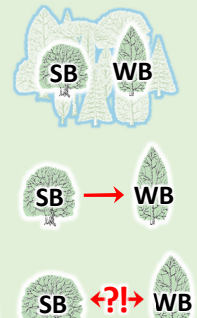
EXAMPLE – Based on what people can observe:

- Water baptism came FIRST** in Acts 2:38:
"Repent and be baptized and you'll receive the Holy Spirit."
- Holy Spirit baptism came FIRST** in Acts 10:47:
"They received the Holy Spirit, so we should baptize them!"

⇒ This is no problem, if we view the "act of salvation" from the perspective of a *single process*, rather than a *series of steps*. [We will look at this later.]

SUMMARY – THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER AND SPIRIT BAPTISMS.

- They go together. (We should not separate them.)
- Logically, Spirit baptism comes first.
- Chronologically, we can't always observe this relationship.



2 HOW DOES WATER BAPTISM FIT WITH THE OTHER THINGS WE DO?

God's actions ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What God does in salvation.

#1 Conviction ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The foundation that makes it possible.


#2 Change ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ **Internal changes WE do.**

#3 Consequences ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ **External changes WE do. (including WATER BAPTISM.)**

⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What comes afterwards.


THE THINGS WE ARE TO DO CAN ALSO BE VIEWED FROM TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES... AND BOTH ARE IMPORTANT.

➔ **AS A SERIES OF STEPS** (a logical or chronological progression).



"A" comes before "B";
"B" comes before "C";
"C" comes before "D"...


➔ **AS A SINGLE (OR UNIFIED) PROCESS.**



A B C D E F
G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U
V W **Z Y X**


"They're all there!"
(Even if they aren't always presented in the expected order.)

HOW THIS WORKS.

- **AS A SERIES OF STEPS:** We learn the nature of salvation. Each step in the process has its place; and (logically) after we do the one, we move on to the next.
 - ① Hear the Good News, ② accept it, ③ repent, ④ trust (believe) Jesus, etc.
- **AS A UNIFIED PROCESS:** We learn that all of these things occur. (No need to use a check list!)

ALSO: Even if only 1 or 2 of the steps are mentioned in a verse, we know that ALL the steps are implied.

"He believed" IMPLIES ⇔ ⇔

 - ① He heard the Good News, ② accepted it, ③ repented, ④ trusted/believed Jesus, etc.


SOME EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE.

① **BECAUSE THEY SAW IT AS ONE UNIFIED PROCESS:**

★ They didn't have to always mention each step of the process. ★

EXAMPLE: Saying that a person "believed" implied that *all* happened (unless the context shows us differently – such as with the temporary "faith" of fakes).

But many of those who heard the message **believed**, ...
Acts 4:4 (CSB)




[The jailer] asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
[Paul and Silas] replied, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and **you will be saved**—you and your household."
Acts 16:30b-31 (NIV)
(Verses 32-33 mentions some of the other things.)

② **BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THE STEP-BY-STEP SEQUENCE:**

★ They still recognized the relationships between the various parts of "becoming saved." ★

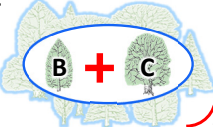
EXAMPLE: They recognized that baptism – an external response – was to take place after the internal changes occurred.

Peter replied, "**Repent** and **be baptized**, ..."
Acts 2:38a (CSB)



★ They could also group things together as one event that resulted in salvation. ★

Get up, **be baptized** and wash your sins away, **calling on his name**.
Acts 22:16b (NIV)



TODAY, PEOPLE OFTEN IGNORE THE "ONE PROCESS" PERSPECTIVE.

- **IN THE BIBLE:** Since everything was all part of the one process, it was understood that *it would all occur*.

TODAY: ➔ People often ignore this, then treat some parts as unimportant, or even unnecessary. [EXAMPLES: repentance or baptism.]

- **IN THE BIBLE:** Everything occurred at nearly the same time.

TODAY: ➔ People tend to separate them and ignore their connection.
People often choose to delay baptism (even when they don't have to), or totally ignore it (as though it weren't commanded).

SUMMARY: HOW THIS APPLIES TO WATER BAPTISM.

① **ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE OTHER THINGS THAT HAPPEN, (LOGICALLY/CHRONOLOGICALLY):**

- It is a **visible response** to accepting/believing the Good News.

So those who **accepted his message** were **baptized**, ...
Acts 2:41a (CSB)

Many others in Corinth also **heard** Paul, **became believers**, and were **baptized**.
Acts 18:8b (NLT)

(Another example: Acts 8:12.)
- It is a **visible response** to the work of God.

"Can anyone object to their being **baptized**, now that they have **received the Holy Spirit** just as we did?"
Acts 10:47 (NLT)

The God of our ancestors has **chosen** you ...
Get up! **Be baptized** ...
Acts 22:14b, 16b (GW)

② BECAUSE IT IS PART OF THE WHOLE UNIFIED PROCESS:

- It reminds us of our responsibility to be baptized. (We can't deliberately choose to do some of the "steps of salvation" and ignore the others!)

- Especially since it is commanded.*

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, ...
Acts 2:38a (CSB)

- Especially since it is part of what it means to be a "disciple" (follower of Jesus).

Therefore go and make disciples ...
baptizing them ... and teaching them ...
Mt 28:19a, 20a (NIV)

* (We saw previously that there may be legitimate reasons that it might not be done, or at least may be delayed. Willful disobedience was not one of those reasons!)

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Next time: (A PREVIEW.)

(Among other things ...)

- ⇒ One of our goals is to look further at the connection between water baptism and Spirit baptism.
- ⇒ We shall see that water baptism is a picture of what the Spirit did, rather than the cause of what he did.

(In other words ...)

★ Getting wet did not save us...
but the Holy Spirit did! ★

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Right now: YOUR MISSION.

SINCE ALL OF SALVATION IS A UNIFIED PROCESS, WITH THE DIFFERENT PARTS WORKING TOGETHER TO RESULT IN YOUR SALVATION ...

Concerning GOD:

- ⇒ Give him credit for what he has done in your salvation!

Concerning YOURSELF:

- ⇒ Is there anything you are ignoring or neglecting in the "process of salvation"?
- ⇒ (If so) What do you need to do in order to remedy the situation?

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