

# WATER BAPTISM

Don Krow

Baptism is actually not an English word. It is the Greek word “baptizo,” which was translated from the Greek language into the English language as “baptize.” Let’s do a little research on this word “baptism” to find out what it really is. Beginning in Acts 8:26, we read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch: “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. [The Spirit of the Lord sent Philip to a desert region.] And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeſt?”

Here was a man in the desert, a eunuch who was the treasurer of Queen Candace, who had probably been in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit of the Lord told Philip to go join himself to this man, and when he approached the chariot, he heard the man reading from a scroll, what we would know today as our Bible. He was reading aloud from the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah. Philip ran to him and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?” He replied, “I don’t understand a thing I’m reading. How can I unless somebody explains it to me?” And he began to read a passage from Isaiah 53.

Continuing in Acts 8:34, “And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?” He was reading from Isaiah but didn’t understand who it was talking about. Notice in verse 35: “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.” Philip was a true evangelist. He preached to the eunuch out of the Old Testament and showed him that the Man he was reading about in Isaiah 53 was the Messiah, the Christ, who suffered for our sins. Verse 36 says, “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”

Notice first of all that Philip didn’t say, “This is what I want you to do.” It was the Ethiopian who, after he heard the teaching about Jesus and they had come to some water, said, “There is water—what keeps me from being baptized, Philip?” Think about this: he had come from a far distant country, and I’m sure he had a little canteen of water. Philip could have said, “Give me your canteen, and I’ll sprinkle a little water on your head,” but he didn’t. It was when they came up on a great amount of water that the eunuch asked what kept him from being baptized. Philip then basically said, “There are requirements to be baptized.” Did you know that? There are requirements.

Philip said in verse 37, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.” Baptism is not for people who half-heartedly believe in Jesus but for those who have trusted Him completely with their hearts . . . who have completely, totally, and fully trusted Him for the forgiveness of their sins. Philip said if you believe with your whole heart then you may be baptized. The eunuch said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

When a person is baptized, he demonstrates that he is turning. The best way to explain this is a marriage ceremony where one person commits himself to another, and that person commits herself back. In that ceremony they put on rings to signify that they belong to each other. She usually even changes her name. Baptism is much like that. It is the final act of turning to God in a public way, professing Jesus Christ before men, before God, and before all the devils of hell, saying, “I’m in it for the long haul.” It’s not identifying with the First Baptist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Pentecostal Church, or the Assembly of God; it is identifying with Jesus Christ. Peter says in Acts 2:38, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

When a person identifies with Jesus, they identify with His work, His redemptive acts, and all that He is. They aren’t baptized in the name of Moses or some other person and identified with them . . . they’re identifying totally with Jesus. They’re saying, “I’m taking my stand. This is it. I’m dead to the old life, raised up out of the water to walk in newness of life. I’m now totally the property of Jesus Christ.”

The Bible sets forth another requirement for baptism in Acts 2:38: “Repent and be baptized.” A person must repent and have a change of heart and mind. They must turn to God and to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Trusting him completely, they must turn away from Satan and his kingdom. Baptism is for those who are serious with God. If you don’t mean business with Him, don’t be baptized; but if you believe with all your heart you may.

Those requirements for baptism automatically rule out one kind of person—an infant. I’m not trying to upset anyone who might have been baptized as a baby, but if you were, did you repent, as the Bible tells us, and turn to God with all your heart, turning from your sin? Did you believe in Jesus Christ with all your heart and trust him for the forgiveness of your sins? A baby can’t repent or believe, so if you’ve never been baptized the scriptural way, identifying not with some organization but with the Person and work of Jesus Christ, then today, repent, believe with all your heart, and reach out to Jesus for forgiveness of your sins. Publicly acknowledge your commitment to Him today through water baptism.

Some people we led to Christ a few weeks ago knocked at my door in the middle of the night after they heard the teaching on water baptism by one of my friends. They said, “We want baptism, and we want it now.” I told them I had a horse tank in my back yard that would take about an hour to fill. We filled it, took them outside, and I said, “Would you like to openly profess your faith in Jesus Christ?” Both of them turned from us, turned to God, and said, “We thank you for saving us, for bringing the Gospel into our lives, etc., etc.” We baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ. They came out of the water, and the lady told me a few days later, “I left thirty-five years of nicotine addiction, smoking two and half packs of cigarettes a day in the waters of baptism. When I came out of the water that night I was totally delivered, totally free from a thirty-five year nicotine addiction.” When she was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, she said, “Jesus I’m identifying with you, and I am yours.” She received her deliverance that night as she acted on the Word.

Your baptism is an act of faith . . . your faith expressing itself, identifying with the personal work of Jesus Christ. May God bless you. As you consider water baptism, remember what the Bible says in Acts 2:38. It is for every one of you!!

## WATER BAPTISM (Outline)

“Baptize” is not actually an English word, but a Greek word written in letters of the English alphabet.

Acts 8:26-38: “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. <sup>27</sup>And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, <sup>28</sup>Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. <sup>30</sup>And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? <sup>31</sup>And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? <sup>37</sup>And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

What are the requirements of those desiring baptism?

1. Repentance: Repentance is a change of mind that results in an outward turning around to face and move in a completely new direction (Acts 2:38; 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9).
2. Faith: Faith is a response to something God has done. The Gospel is responded to by faith in believing Christ died for our sins, was buried, and arose again that we might be declared righteous (1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Romans 4:25). This results in confessing Jesus is the Lord of our lives, and committing ourselves to Him as our only means of salvation (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 1:21; Mark 16:15-16).

These requirements for baptism automatically rule out one class of persons, that is, infants. By this very nature, an infant cannot repent and cannot believe. Therefore, an infant cannot be eligible for baptism. Water baptism is a decision to forsake one’s own way for the way of Jesus Christ. The ceremony was the natural conclusion to the conversion (turning to God) experience.

## WATER BAPTISM (Teacher's Guide)

1. Read and explain Acts 2:22-23, 36.

Peter is showing the need of repentance.

2. What question is being asked in Acts 2:37?

What shall we do? How can we respond?

3. What is the answer to that question according to Acts 2:38?

- A. Repent! Turn to God for His mercy and forgiveness.

According to Acts 26:18, this involves what?

A turning from Satan and his ways to God and His ways;  
asking for His mercy and forgiveness (see Luke 18:13-14).

- B. Be Baptized:

- (1) The word "baptize" is the Greek word "baptizo" and means "to identify with" or "to be made one with." Water baptism means an identification with Christ.
- (2) Water baptism was a sign of allegiance to the teaching and person of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).
- (3) Water baptism is a dedication to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and to become His disciple (Matthew 28:19).
- (4) Baptism is for those who have now come to a place where they have repented of their sins and believe with all their heart in the Lord Jesus Christ to save them.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well" (Acts 16:31, AMP).

“And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. <sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. <sup>34</sup>And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house” (Acts 16:32-34).

- (5) Baptism is not for those who believe half-heartedly in the Gospel.

Acts 8:36-37: “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? <sup>37</sup>And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

- (6) Baptism is a demonstration of faith in Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16).

Mark 16:16: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Those that believe in Christ with all their heart for salvation will be baptized; those that don’t, won’t be baptized.

- (7) Water baptism is a decision to forsake one’s own way for the way of Jesus Christ. The ceremony was the natural conclusion to the conversion (turning to God) experience.

- (8) It is an appeal to God for a clear conscience. It is a call upon God to wipe the conscience clean from sin. (See 1 Peter 3:21 and Acts 22:16)

4. How many people, according to Acts 2:38, were to repent (turn to God for forgiveness), and be baptized?

Every one of you!

5. According to Acts 2:38, into whose name were people baptized?

In the name of Jesus Christ.

“Baptizing them into the Name” would indicate that the baptized person was closely bound to, or became the property of, the one into whose name he was baptized (Vine’s).

Galatians 3:26-27: “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

6. What was the result of people repenting and coming into a union with Jesus Christ? (Acts 2:38).

The remission of their sins.

Remission = A dismissal or release of sins. "A sending away of sins" (Vine).

7. Then what does God promise you? (Acts 2:38).

The gift of the Holy Spirit.

8. Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to whom? (Acts 2:39).

You, your children, and to all that are afar off, as many as the Lord shall call.

9. Is He calling you now?

John 6:44 - Is He drawing you?

Acts 8:22 - What should you do according to this verse?

Then what should you do according to Acts 22:16?

Call on the Lord through baptism.

God will give you what according to 1 Peter 3:21?

A clear conscience.

What should you do according to Luke 11:13?

Ask for the Holy Spirit.

## WATER BAPTISM (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being discipled. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

<sup>1</sup> Question: I need to know, do you have to be baptized to go to heaven? I love God and was baptized when I was seven years old. I am now eighteen, and someone from a non-denominational church told me that no one can be saved and baptized at such a young age. He also said that you had to be baptized to go to heaven, but my Baptist family said that you don't. I just want to go to heaven, and I am living for God in every way that I can, but I need to know if I need to be baptized again, now that I am supposedly of an age to be baptized. Please help me. God bless and thanks.

<sup>2</sup> Salvation and the forgiveness of sins come freely as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 10:43 states, "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (NIV). Salvation comes through faith, that is, trust and reliance upon Jesus and His shed blood to give you a right-standing before God. In Acts 10:44-48 the Holy Ghost was given to the believers (confirming their salvation) before they were baptized.

<sup>3</sup> Even though this is true, at other times it seems that the forgiveness of sins happened at the time of baptism (see Acts 2:38). This is because baptism is an expression or act of faith that was expressed at the time that a person turned to Jesus in repentance and faith (Mark 16:16). It was also a way of calling on the Lord for a clear conscience (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

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<sup>1</sup> What is the question that this young man is asking?

<sup>2</sup> According to Acts 10:43, salvation comes to us how?

<sup>3</sup> (a) Baptism was an expression of faith that usually took place at the time of salvation.

How does Acts 2:38 express this truth?

(b) How does Mark 16:16 express this truth?

(c) Baptism was a way of calling upon the Lord. How does Acts 22:16 express this truth?

(d) Baptism was a way to call upon the Lord for a clear conscience. Does 1 Peter 3:21 confirm this truth?

<sup>4</sup> If you truly, from your heart, turned to Jesus at the age of seven and were baptized, God accepts your child-like faith.

Baptism does have requirements—one requirement being repentance. Did you have a change of heart, a change of mind, that resulted in turning from sin to Jesus and His forgiveness? (Acts 2:38; Acts 20:21; Acts 17:30). Did you exercise faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? (Mark 16:16; John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10). If not, then turn to Jesus now, repent from your sins, turn to His grace to forgive you, and seal that decision to follow Him through water baptism.

<sup>5</sup> Baptism is an act that expresses one's faith in Jesus. Without that faith, the act means nothing. People who turned to Jesus as Lord and Savior were willing to express that faith and openly confess Him in this public way. People who say no to Jesus' command are showing to some extent a dead faith. Faith is dead when people are unwilling to express it (James 2:18-20). Faith alone saves, but saving faith is never alone. It is always willing to express itself. Baptism was a way of expressing that faith. Baptism is not what saves, it is Jesus. Water doesn't wash away sins, it is the blood of Jesus. But faith applies His blood to you, and sometimes that faith was expressed at the time a person was baptized (Acts 22:16). The question is, have you repented? Do you believe in Him (Jesus)? If so, why do you delay? Arise and be baptized!

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<sup>4</sup>(a) What are the requirements for baptism according to Acts 2:38?  
(b) What are the requirements for baptism according to Mark 16:16?  
(c) Can an infant repent?  
(d) Can an infant believe?

<sup>5</sup>Read Acts 8:30-39. What is the next step after faith in Christ that a believer should take?

## Water Baptism (Discipleship Questions)

Read Acts 2:22-24, 32-33.

1. What is being described in verses 22-24?
2. In verse 23, what was Jesus “delivered by”?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was it possible for Christ to be held by the pains of death?
4. In verse 33, where was Jesus “exalted to”?
5. What did He receive from the Father?

Read Acts 2:36-39.

6. What has God made Jesus?
7. What was the response of those who heard these words?
8. What question did they ask Peter at the end of verse 37?
9. What were Peter’s two instructions for the people?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
10. What gift would they receive if they did?
11. To whom was this “promise” for?
12. Does that include you?

Read Acts 26:16-18.

13. What was the purpose of Christ appearing to us?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
14. When you minister and witness to someone about Jesus Christ, their eyes [heart] is opened in order for what to happen?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Once they have turned to God what two things will they receive?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

16. What are they sanctified by?

Read Acts 16:30-33.

17. What question was asked of Paul?

18. What was the response of what this jailer must do to be saved ?

19. In verse 33, what happened the same hour of the night for the jailer and his household?

Read Acts 8:36-37.

20. After the eyes of the eunuch's understanding of the scriptures were opened, what was his question at the end of verse 36?

21. "Then Philip said, 'If you \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_, you may.'"

22. "And he answered, 'I \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Son of God.'"

Read 1 Peter 3:21.

23. What is the antitype (or symbol) which now saves us?

24. Does this baptism remove the filth of the flesh?

25. It is actually "the answer of a \_\_\_\_\_ toward God."

Read Acts 22:16.

26. What happens when you call upon the name of the Lord?

Read Galatians 3:26-27.

27. How many of us are sons of God?

28. How is it we are sons of God?

29. In order to "put on Christ" what did we have to do?

Read Acts 10:43.

30. Whoever believes in Jesus will receive what?

Read Mark 16:16.

31. According to this verse, who will be saved?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

To Summarize:

Read John 6:44.

32. Are you feeling drawn by the Father?

(If you are doing this study, be assured, you are!)

Read Acts 8:22.

33. Since the Lord is drawing you, according to this verse, what must you do?

Read Acts 22:16.

34. Then what should you do?

Read 1 Peter 3:21.

35. What will God give you?

Read Luke 11:13.

36. What should you ask for from your heavenly Father?

## Water Baptism (Discipleship Answer Key)

1. Death, crucifixion, resurrection of Christ
2. A. Determined purpose  
B. Foreknowledge of God
3. No
4. Right hand of God
5. Promise of the Holy Spirit
6. Both Lord and Christ
7. Cut to the heart
8. What shall we do?
9. A. Repent  
B. Be baptized
10. Holy Spirit
11. We and our children, all who are afar off
12. Yes
13. A. Make us a minister  
B. Make us a witness
14. A. Turn them from dark to light  
B. Turn them from power of satan to God
15. A. Forgiveness  
B. Inheritance
16. Faith in Christ
17. What must I do to be saved?
18. He received the word and washed their stripes
19. They were all baptized
20. What hinders me from being baptized?
21. Believe – all – heart
22. Believe – IS
23. Baptism
24. No
25. Good conscience
26. Sins will be washed away
27. All
28. Faith in Christ Jesus
29. Get baptized
30. Remission of sins
31. A. Believes  
B. Baptized
32. Yes
33. Repent and pray
34. Call upon the name of the Lord  
be baptized
35. Good conscience toward God
36. Holy Spirit

## WATER BAPTISM by Don Krow (Additional Information)

As we come to the teaching on Christian water baptism, it is of utmost importance that we be honest with ALL scriptures, asking God to give us light, and then make a quality decision to act upon that light (James 1:22).

Because of religion, tradition, and doctrines of men that make the Word of God of none effect (Matthew 15:3, 6-8; Mark 7:8-9, 13; Colossians 2:8), such questions as these have been asked, “My grandfather wasn’t baptized. Will he go to heaven?” or “Baptism is salvation by works, isn’t it?” Such questions would never have been asked of the early New Testament church. The reason that such questions would not be valid is because all New Testament believers were immediately baptized as they put their faith in Jesus as Lord, Messiah and Savior. All the apostles and disciples immediately baptized their converts never questioning it as being a work of the law. This is also true of the apostle Paul who establishes salvation by grace through faith without works (Acts 19:4-5).

These questions have only been asked because we have not practiced New Testament Christianity. The practice of many Christians today is “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,” and when it is convenient and we can get enough people together, we will have a baptismal service. Later on, as you grow in the Lord, there is another experience we will tell you about called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early New Testament church, there was very little time between these experiences—at the most—a few days, and in most cases, not even a few hours.

Because of a lack of practicing New Testament Christianity and the practice of our own traditions, God is calling the church again to act upon the Gospel as did the early New Testament church.

Look at New Testament Christianity and then compare it to the practice of the church today: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 16:14-15; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 9:3-6; 17-18; 22:12-16; Acts 16:30-34; Acts 8:5, 12, 14-15; Acts 10:43-48; Acts 19:1-6. It is because of a dishonest approach to the scriptures that denominations have built churches based on one scripture, such as Acts 2:38, while others have built churches on Acts 10:43. To get the whole truth on any subject, we must acknowledge and approach all of God’s Word on that subject. Comparing scripture with scripture, we must be willing to believe and act upon God’s Word, and understanding will come.

“Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Men fall into heresy when they choose which scriptures they would like to believe. The word “heresy” comes from a root word that means “to take” or “choose.”

Upon examination of the word “baptize,” we find that it is not actually an English word, but a Greek word written in letters of the English alphabet. If we write out the Greek in English letters, this gives us “baptizo.” Then with a change of the “o” to an “e,” we have the word “baptize.”

In Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, we see the primary meaning of the word “baptizo,” “to make fully wet.” Strong’s gives the meaning of the verb “bapto” as “to cover wholly with fluid, hence to dip.”

What we have here is the idea of baptism by immersion. If we do not trust the Greek as our final authority, let us go to the Scriptures themselves to settle this all important question.

Please read Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38, and Romans 6:4. (A burial is not placing a corpse on top of the ground and sprinkling some dirt on it. It is placing it in the ground.)

As we study such words as “baptize” it will lead us to examine other subjects such as “remission.” Acts 2:38 states repentance and Christian water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of sins. Upon examination of the word “remission,” we also see that Acts 10:43 states that “whosoever believeth in him (Lord Jesus) shall receive remission of sins.” It is with an equal approach that we must acknowledge both of these scriptures as being God’s holy Word to us. As a study on the subject of “remission” is done, we find that there could be no remission under any circumstances “without the shedding of blood” (Hebrews 9:22). John the Baptist’s baptism of repentance could only be a temporary baptism based on the shedding of blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 10:1,4). When the Apostle Paul had discovered that certain disciples at Ephesus had only received John’s baptism, he immediately re-baptized them with Christian water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:1-5). It is only the blood of Jesus that can give remission of sins on a permanent basis (Hebrews 10:16-19).

As an objection that Christian water baptism is “works,” we are led to examine the subject of works. The Apostle Paul establishes the fact “that a man is not justified [declared righteous] by works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 2:16). But what are the works of the law? Read Philippians 3:9. The works of the law are anything that you do to establish your own righteousness before God, saying, “Lord I’ve done these righteous deeds. I deserve now to enter Your kingdom.” Read Romans 10:3-4 very carefully.

As we study the subject of “works,” we discover another kind of “work” that must be present with saving faith. It is called “a work of faith.” Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11. John Calvin said “Faith alone saves but saving faith is not alone.” A work of faith is a corresponding action that results from faith. If I shouted, “This building is on fire,” it would produce a work of faith, an action which would cause you to get up and run out of the building. To all those who said they believed but did not get up and go out of the building, they would perish. That is what we call intellectual assent or devil’s faith (James 2:19), a faith that is dead because it has no corresponding action (James 2:17, 20, 26).

We do not receive salvation by works, but works are the test as to whether our faith is real. James gives us several examples of this.

Read James 2:16. If a person has the means to help another but says, “Go your way, we will pray for you.” The fact that he could have helped but did not indicates that he really did not care. His words were mere empty talk.

Read James 2:19. Demons’ faith brings them no comfort, only fear. This shows that true saving faith is expressed by obedience and submission to God.

Read James 2:21-23. In Genesis 15:6 Abraham believed God to give him a seed from his own bowels in which all families of the earth would be blessed. As he believed, righteousness was imputed unto him

Because of the faith in Abraham's heart (Genesis 15:6), this faith led to a work of faith or result of faith, which was offering his son Isaac upon the altar. We read in James 2:22-23 (NIV), "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete (or perfect) by what he did. And the scripture was FULFILLED that says, Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."

So it is with Christian water baptism. The result of faith or work of faith that was always expressed when people believed on the Lord Jesus Christ was water baptism. This was practiced immediately upon conversion. So we could say that all those who believed and were baptized have fulfilled, or completed by faith and action, the scripture which says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Read Acts 16:30-34. Christian baptism, understood correctly, does not take away from justification by faith but actually strengthens the point. Faith is made perfect, complete, or manifest, by a work of faith, which was usually water baptism in the early New Testament church. Read 1 Peter 3:20-21. The righteous man, Noah (Genesis 7:1), became heir of the righteousness that is by faith as his faith was expressed in preparing the ark (Hebrews 11:7). Baptism is the like figure or picture of this corresponding work of faith (1 Peter 3:21). James says, "Show me thy faith without thy works [which is impossible to do] and I will show thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). God sees saving faith in the heart of a man before it expresses itself in action (Genesis 15:6). However, God will, through instruction, show a man how to express his faith outwardly (Genesis 17:10-14, Romans 4:10-11, Genesis 22, and James 2:22), thus bringing it to maturity and proving or making manifest the perfect will of God. Water baptism was a work of faith that the apostles demanded as a distinguishing factor between saving faith and intellectual assent.

On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 souls responded to the Gospel and were baptized (Acts 2:41). If the twelve apostles baptized, and it took two minutes a person to perform the act, that would mean that each apostle baptized eight and one-half hours that day. It was commonly known and understood by believers and unbelievers that all those who put saving faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, Messiah and Savior, would immediately be baptized.

When Jesus was baptized by John, He gave the reason for this act as "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). Jesus was already righteous, but through this act, He fulfilled or completed the righteousness that He already had in His heart. Christian baptism is the outward act of the believer in which he fulfills or completes the inward righteousness that he has in his heart through faith in Christ's atoning death and resurrection.

Many times as I've baptized people, they say, "I'm not going to be baptized unless so and so can baptize me." Such attitudes make baptism invalid, and for this reason, the apostle Paul refrained from baptizing (1 Corinthians 1:12-15). Read Galatians 3:27. Baptism is done in the name of Jesus. There is no room here for anything less than Christ. Baptism is an identification with Christ not with man.

Through baptism the truth of the Gospel message is acted out in the life of the believer, thus bringing before the church the central theme of Christ's atonement. Each time a believer is added to the church, they themselves act out, in the ordinance of baptism, their identification by faith with Christ—first in His death and burial unto sin, and second in His resurrection to newness of life (Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12).

Jesus gave a commission in Matthew 28:19 to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. As we look at actual examples of baptism, we see that the apostles and disciples baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptizing in the name of Jesus fulfills the commission of Matthew 28 because in Jesus Christ “dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9).

It is also true that the scriptures reveal that “whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). This means that when I go to work, when my wife is cooking dinner, or whatever is done, to do it in the name of Jesus. This doesn't mean that every time I do something I have to stop and say in Jesus' name I go to work, in Jesus' name I cook dinner, etc.” God is not so concerned about the words we say as He is about the attitude of our hearts. So it is with baptism. God is not so concerned with the words that the preacher said over those being baptized as He is with the obedience to the commission of Christ. So in other words, the preacher may have said the words, “I baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” but the act was done in obedience to the person of Christ. Therefore, the person was baptized in the name of Jesus regardless of the actual words spoken over the individual.

It is also true that someone can say the words “in Jesus' Name” and actually not do the “deed in Jesus' Name.” For example, if I were to teach a Bible study, and I began to pray: “Father, in Jesus' name, I come before you and ask you to anoint this teaching because I have been paying my tithes, going to church every Sunday and Wednesday, giving much money to the poor. So God bless this teaching, in Jesus' name, Amen.” Although I said, “in Jesus' name” I did not pray in the name of Jesus. Why? Because I listed all of my righteousness as a means of God's blessing instead of trusting Christ's righteousness as a means of God's blessing. I prayed IN MY NAME although I said, “in Jesus' Name.”

This point is brought out because of the division that has come about in the body of Christ over the words the preacher used when baptizing converts.

I do believe, in accordance with the mode of Christian baptism, probably the name of the Lord Jesus Christ was used. I say this because of the actual examples of baptism in the book of Acts (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5). But, I would never tell someone to be re-baptized, or that his baptism was invalid for the reasons that have already been stated. Baptism is an identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. To re-baptize because of one's objection to not pronouncing the right words over the convert seems to take away from the central truth that He (Jesus) has offered one sacrifice for sins forever (Hebrews 10:12).

What are the requirements of those desiring baptism?

1. **INSTRUCTION:** A new convert needs to receive a certain amount of teaching to enable him to understand the nature and purpose of baptism. Read Matthew 28:19-20.
2. **REPENTANCE:** Repentance is a gift that God grants people who want to come to Him and be saved. It is a new attitude, a change of mind, a change of heart that results in one turning from sin to God and, ultimately, to His ways.

In Matthew 3:8 John the Baptist said, “Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart]” (Amplified Bible) And the Apostle Paul said in his preaching to the Gentiles “that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.” (Acts 26:20; NASV). From these scriptures we can see that repentance is a change of heart, a change of mind and that good works are the fruit (evidence) of that changed heart.

3. **FAITH:** Faith is responding to something God has done. The Gospel is responded to by faith in believing Christ died for our sins, was buried, and arose again so that we might be declared righteous (1 Corinthians 15:1-3, Romans 4:25). This results in making Jesus the Lord of our lives and committing ourselves to Him as the only One that can save us (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 1:21; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-37).

These requirements for baptism automatically rule out one class of persons, and that is infants. By its very nature, an infant cannot be taught, cannot repent, and cannot believe. Therefore, an infant cannot be eligible for baptism if we are going to follow the Scriptures.

There are only two reasons people are not baptized immediately after putting faith in Jesus Christ as Lord:

1. **IGNORANCE:** The lack of proper instruction. This can be corrected in a matter of moments by going to the Scriptures.
2. **BEING CUT OFF:** That is, for example, someone in the hospital who has just put faith in Jesus as his Lord but dies without the opportunity to express that faith by water baptism. Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

The purpose of this teaching is to once again lay the foundation of the doctrine of Christ (Hebrews 6:1-2); for a house cannot stand that does not have a proper foundation. Faith in Christ is that which justifies (Acts 15:8-9), but a faith that is unwilling to be expressed is dead faith (James 2:17). Only true, living faith can make a true, living Christian.