

SCRIPTURE STUDY SERIES – LESSON #3

A STUDY IN THE ART OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

**Designed Especially For New Converts and Christians Desiring
Greater Fulfillment**

By: Pastor Glen H. Morris

WATER BAPTISM

God placed His blessing upon the ordinance of water baptism by using the occasion of Jesus' own baptism to present the message of the Trinity for the first time. **Matthew 3:13, 16, 17, "Then Jesus (the Son of God) came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice (God the Father) came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"** At the Chesapeake Christian Center Church of God, we follow the teaching of God's Word concerning water baptism in total. We are buried with Jesus in death to self and sin through water baptism, and we rise from the water to a new life of power and victory in the likeness of the resurrected Christ. Just as the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as He came out of the water, we can ask for and receive this same gift, according to the scriptures. The following study will strengthen your understanding of the significance of water baptism and you will be able to give an answer to any questions concerning this experience. If you have not followed the Lord in water baptism since accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior, you should be baptized at the very first opportunity. You will know that you have obeyed the command of our Lord when He said, **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."** (Mark 16:16)

SCRIPTURES TO STUDY: Acts 8:12-13, Acts 9:18, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 22:16,
Acts 16:32-33

A. When, in obedience to Jesus' command, we are "buried with Him" in water baptism, what wonderful change happens in our life? (Romans 6:4-5)

B. In the Great Commission, what was the commandment of Jesus directly related to water baptism? (Matthew 28:19)

- C. Read Mark 16:16 and determine why we do not practice infant baptism.
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- D. At what occasion were 3,000 people baptized on the same day? (Acts 2:38, 41)
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- E. There are many instances in the scripture that indicate the timing for water baptism. According to Acts 8:38, how soon did Philip suggest water baptism after conversion?
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- F. Many questions have been raised concerning the scriptural mode of water baptism. According to John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39 and Colossians 2:12, describe in your own words how the Christian church today can be scripturally correct in this important ordinance.
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The scriptures indicate very clearly that in the early church the first response of faith in Christ was public baptism; in fact, the pattern usually seems to be repentance, or faith in Jesus' teaching, water baptism, and then the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I believe the obedience of submitting to the ordinance of water baptism prepares us to accept the precious gift of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The following scriptures indicate this is a normal procedure and we can believe and expect the infilling of the Holy Spirit at the time of our water baptism, if we have not already received.

PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- G. “_____ said _____, “Repent, _____ let every _____ of _____ baptized in the _____ of _____ for the _____ of _____; and you shall _____ the _____ of the _____.” (Acts 2:38)
- H. “_____ they _____ this, they were _____ in the _____ of the Lord Jesus. And when _____ had laid hands on them, the _____ came upon them, and they _____ with _____ and _____.” (Acts 19:5-6)

One of the precious thoughts in scripture is that the Lord never gets in a rut! In Acts 10, there is an interesting study of God preparing Peter's heart to preach to the Gentiles at Cornelius' house. After his vision, he was able to say in Acts 10:34-35, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works

righteousness is accepted by Him.” In this particular instance, God indicates his sovereignty that we are not bound by any particular pattern by changing the order, so that Peter would indeed see the Gentiles loved God also, (Acts 10:44-46) “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered,”

I. “Can _____ water, that these should not be _____ who have _____ the _____ just as we have? And he commanded them to be _____ in the _____ of the _____.” (Acts 10:47-48)

J. Read Matthew 3 and tell of the events that happened.

K. If you have obeyed the Lord in the ordinance of water baptism, write in your own words what this experience has meant to you. If you have not been baptized since you believed, please indicate your desire below to follow Jesus in obedience to His command.

L. State in your own words why you believe water baptism is important. (Use opposite side of page is necessary.)

PLEASE MEMORIZE THIS VERSE: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP:** _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____