

# 1. What Does the Word Baptism Mean?

Is it sprinkling, pouring, immersion, or something else?

# 2. Are There “Words” or Phrases in the Bible Which Help to Define the Word Baptism?

Are there any specific words in the Bible which are synonymous or illustrative of it?

# 3. Are There Any “Examples” in the Bible Which Show Us How to Be Baptized?

Who was baptized in the Bible? What did these persons do during their baptism?

## Answer Key / Explanation

STOP! Before you read the answers, please fully answer the questions to the left. In this way you will learn best.

Note: First of all, the purpose of this tract is to help us to understand what the word baptism means. Then we can be baptized in the right way, in the way that it means. Then we can truly do what Jesus said to do to be saved. For Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). But is baptism sprinkling, pouring, immersion, or what? Please read the answers below.

Q1: In the original language of the New Testament, Greek, “baptized” means buried, immersed. Now the word “baptism” is a transliteration of the original Greek word “baptizo”. A transliteration happens when a Bible translator does not translate a word, but instead only the corresponding letters of it into another language. For example, Beta (Gk.) = B in the English language, Alpha (Gk.) = A in the English language, and so on and so forth; hence “baptism”. Therefore “baptism” is really not a word, but a transliteration of a word, a “**trans-letter-ation**”, if you will. The Greek word “baptizo” should have been translated, not transliterated, into the word buried or immersed. And so “baptizo”, the original Greek word used in the gospel for baptism, means immersed, dipped, or buried. It is not the Greek word “Raino”, which means sprinkling or raining. It is not the Greek word “Cheo”, which means pouring. But “baptizo” is the Greek word for buried, immersed, dipped. So baptism is not sprinkling or pouring.

Note: There are a few different kinds of “baptisms” mentioned in the New Testament. For a study on what they all are and what they all mean, get a copy of my *Complete Bible Study on the Basics for Beginners and Christians*, specifically the lesson *John Prepared the Way for the Messiah*. For example, John the Baptist baptized people in water for the forgiveness of their sins (Mt 1:4; Ac 13:24). It is one kind of baptism mentioned in the New Testament. John’s baptism is different than being baptized in the name of the Lord because John was not the Lord, but the forerunner to Him. John’s baptism was a temporary, transitional baptism into John’s name, until Christ. After John, people were supposed to be baptized into the name of the Lord (SEE Ac 19:3-5). But in this tract we are talking exclusively about water baptism for two reasons. First, because it is how teachers and baptizers in the Bible understood and applied the command of Christ to: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved” (Mk 16:15, 16). We can see the overwhelming evidence of this in the book of Acts. Water baptism is the only baptism which a baptizer can administer, and that Jesus expects a baptizer to administer. Second, a water baptism is the only kind of baptism which God commanded us to do to be saved.

Q2: Yes, there are some words in the gospel of Jesus Christ which clearly define and illustrate it. For example, “We have been **buried** with Him [Jesus] **through baptism**” (Romans 6:4). And, “having been **buried** with Him [Jesus] **in baptism**” (Colossians 2:12). And so we see that for baptism we are

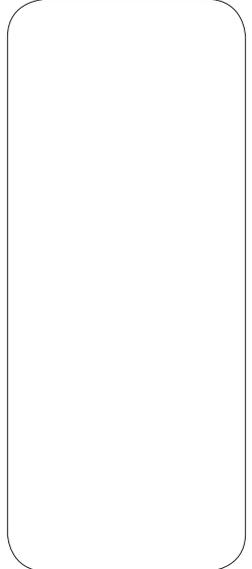
supposed to be “buried”, immersed “with him”. Indeed, baptism imitates Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. And just as Jesus rose from the dead to live to God, we rise from the watery grave of baptism to live to God, in “**newness of life**” (Ro 6:4), the Christian life.

Q3: Yes, many water baptisms were recorded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even Jesus Himself was baptized to show us how to do it. It says that as soon as John the Baptist baptized Jesus, that “Jesus **went up immediately from the water**” (Mt 4:16). And so, if Jesus went up from the water, He must have gone down into the water. In fact, John the Baptist baptized people where there was “**much water**” (SEE John 3:23). He understood the meaning of the word baptism. Likewise, Philip,



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We are supposed to be buried with Jesus Christ in baptism,  
into His death, His grave.



another baptizer, went down into the water with the persons he was baptizing. For example, "they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the Eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:38). Did you go down into the water for your baptism? Did the baptizer go with you into the water to baptize you?

Now you have heard the true meaning of the word baptism. If you have never been water baptized, are you willing to be baptized by immersion? If you were sprinkled or poured for your baptism, are you willing to do it in the true way, by burial, immersion? I encourage you to do so, if you believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Arrange for your true baptism today. Schedule it with a baptizer.

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**Yes! I Would Like Your Free Study**

I am willing to be baptized by immersion (not sprinkling, not pouring).  
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Jesus encouraged us to be baptized so that we can be saved, not condemned. For example, Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved, but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15, 16).

And so we can see that when we have believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and prove it by repenting and being baptized, we will not be condemned by God. Instead we will be saved. We will not go to hell. We will not receive God's anger. We will not receive His WRATH for our sins (Jesus received God's wrath for our sins on His cross). Instead we receive God's GRACE. He will favor us. We receive a pardon from God, the Judge of all men. We receive the forgiveness of our sins. We receive the hope of going to heaven some day to be with Him. If we truly repent of our sins, we will be saved (SEE Lk 24:47). We cannot continue in sin and still be saved. We must separate ourselves from our sins. We must repent.

But what is baptism? What does it mean? Is it sprinkling? Is it pouring? Is it immersion? When you complete this self-test worksheet, you will know the answer to these questions and more. Now if you believe in Jesus Christ. If you believe that He is the Son of God. If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead (Ro 10:9). Then I encourage you to find out what baptism truly means, so that you can truly be baptized to be saved. Do you know how to be baptized? When you do, plan to: "be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Ac 22:16). Rick David, an Evangelist & Author of FreeBibleStudy.org

But someone will say, "We do not need to be baptized to be saved. We are saved by grace, not baptism". I say, "Doesn't God's grace [meaning His favor] include baptism?" Think about it. Doesn't God favor baptism?

# Baptism

Is It Sprinkling, Pouring, or Immersion?

In 2011, this man from Tanzania was buried in baptism by Samuel Mwakasungula, an evangelist.

By Rick David, an Evangelist, Author of FreeBibleStudy.org Register Today!