

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”*

**(Hebrews 6:1–2, NKJV)**

*“...Not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works...”*

- Not laying again – *“to lay something down”*

The writer is saying that the elementary principles of the Christian faith should be laid down like a strong, immovable foundation as soon as we come to Christ

- Once this is set in place there should never be a need for it to be laid down again

These six truths should be so rock-solid in our lives that we are immovable and unshakable when it comes to the basic and essential doctrines of Christ

They are the fundamental bedrock of the Christian life

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- The doctrine of baptisms
- The laying on of hands
- Resurrection from the dead
- The doctrine of eternal judgment

## Repentance From Dead Works and Faith Toward God

If a person has never repented, he has never been saved

The very nature of repentance states that we cannot initially come to God, repent of our sin, and then continue to live as we did before we received the Lord

(Romans 6:15–16, 22 NKJV)

- A life of surrender is a life that wants to serve and please the Lord
- We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works – Ephesians 2:10

Hebrews 6:1, “....repentance from dead works and faith toward God....”

Dead works – any works that produce death

- It could be overt our obvious sinful acts – Galatians 5:19-23
- It could be religious activity – Colossians 2:16-23
- If you trust anything besides a simple faith in Christ and His redemptive work on the Cross, that is a dead work

Faith toward God – resting one’s faith completely in God, in total trust of God, and not trusting anything else

This Greek phrase means – *a faith that is projecting forward and is fully and wholly focused on God and not anything else*

- A faith projecting on God alone – Colossians 3:1-3
- A faith that leans upon God – Hebrews 12:2

## The Doctrine of Baptisms

Note the word Baptisms is plural

But doesn't the Bible say One Baptism?

*“one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”* (Ephesians 4:5, NKJV)

- Seems like a conflict
- Paul is referring to the divine moment that a person is miraculously converted
- There are two more
- A total of three baptisms

Baptism – *to wash, to dip, or to be fully immersed in something or someone, or to dip and dye*

It is the Greek word that would be used when a person wanted to change the color of a garment

- They would dip the garment in a vat of dye
- It would be left in long enough to become saturated with the New color
- It would come out a brand-new color, looking completely different
- That is what happens to us the very moment we come to Christ
- We Repent and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior
- We are instantly dipped and saturated in His Blood  
– Romans 6:3-4
- We become new creations – 2 Corinthians 5:17

For any baptism to take place there are three elements required

- A *baptizer*
- A person who is being *baptized*
- A substance into which a person is *baptized*
- All three are essential for any type of baptism to take place
- If we don't fully understand all three elements we will never fully understand baptism

The first type of baptism is the one Paul refers to in *Ephesians 4:5*

- This baptism is miraculously performed by the Holy Spirit when we come to faith in Christ
- This baptism doesn't require your participation aside from believing in Christ
- The Holy Spirit immerses you into Christ
- You were baptized into the Body of Christ

*“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13, NKJV)*

*“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, NKJV)*

- This baptism is imperative for salvation
- All we do is repent and call on the name of the Lord

The second baptism is the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- All that is required is spiritual hunger and faith
- When it is received it results in supernatural power
- The Baptizer is Jesus
- The medium or substance is the Holy Spirit

*“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11, NKJV)*

*“for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.””*

*(Acts 1:5, NKJV)*

What Jesus prophesied occurred on the day of Pentecost when the 120 were assembled in the Upper Room were filled with the Holy Spirit

- Those who have received the first baptism are eligible to receive the second baptism
- They are already in Christ
- Now they need to ask Jesus, by faith, to baptize them in the Holy Spirit
- This baptism is not a requirement for salvation
- However, it is a requirement for walking in God’s Miraculous Power and victory over sin

*“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”*

**(1 Corinthians 12:4, NKJV)**

*“for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

**(1 Corinthians 12:8–11, NKJV)**

*“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* **(Galatians 5:16, NKJV)**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”* **(Galatians 5:22–23, NKJV)**

You get what you ask for

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* **(Luke 11:13, NKJV)**

Even though the second and third baptisms are not required for salvation, they are not optional from God's perspective and the Early Church never treated them as such

- God has not changed His views on the necessity for them
- They remain as critical as they ever were in building a strong spiritual foundation

When you study the book of Acts, you will find that the early believers didn't give new converts options

They understood that if they were going to walk in the Power of God and have victory over sin, they had to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit

If you look at the pattern in the book of Acts, you will find that when people were saved they were *always* led into the baptism of the Holy spirit

*“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14–17, NKJV)*

- They had only been *baptized* in the Name of Jesus
- They still needed the *second baptism*

*“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.””*

*(Acts 9:17, NKJV)*

- Note: The Holy Spirit baptized Saul into the Body of Christ – *Acts 9:1-9*
- Jesus baptized Paul in the Holy Spirit
- He used Ananias to pray for Paul

*“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.” (Acts 10:44–45, NKJV)*

- They had just received the first baptism at the moment of salvation
- The second followed immediately afterward

*“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:5–6, NKJV)*

- You see two distinctly different baptisms
- Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus when they heard the Gospel
- Baptized in the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them



The book of Acts is not merely a history book it is a pattern we are to follow to more effectively serve God and the purposes of His Kingdom

The *third baptism* is the baptism in water

- This can occur any moment after salvation
- If you were baptized in water before you came to an understanding of salvation it doesn't count
- You must believe to be water baptized – **Mark 16:16; John 3:15-16, 36; John 6:47**
- You must first repent and receive Christ as your Savior

When we are baptized in water we are burying the old man

*“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*  
**(Romans 6:4, NKJV)**

*“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*  
**(Galatians 2:20, NKJV)**

- The believer shows forth his death to sin as well as being raised to newness of life in the act of water baptism

*“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:1–11, NKJV)*

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” (Matthew 28:19–20, NKJV)*

- Jesus shows us here how important water baptism is to our spiritual foundation

Water baptism is a vital, integral part of a five-part divine assignment

- Go
- Go to all the world
- Make disciples
- Baptize them in water
- Teach them the word of God

The act of water baptism does not save you, but when a person allows the one doing the baptizing to immerse or bury them in water it is a public declaration

*“My old life is dead. It is buried!” – “Just like Jesus, I am raised out of the water, declaring that I am going to walk in newness of life from this moment forward!”*

- Through the deliberate act of *obedience* and faith, that believer is marked as a follower of Jesus
- It's about obedience!
- I believe we will have a much harder time obeying God if we skip this vital step of God's divine plan
- Jesus commands us to do so!
- You may not have to be baptized in water to be saved but you do need to do it to be obedient

*“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

**(Acts 2:38, NKJV)**

Make no mistake about it – *it's very important that you obey Jesus*

This is the pattern in the book of Acts

*“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” (Acts 8:12, NKJV)*

*“Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.” (Acts 8:13, NKJV)*

*“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”” (Acts 8:36, NKJV)*

*“So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:38, NKJV)*

- Notice, that even though water baptism is not essential for salvation, it was nonetheless considered optional
- It would help frame the new believers' walk of obedience

Jesus commanded it and early preachers of the Gospel clearly understood that baptism was the first step of obedience

Here we see all three baptisms

*“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

*Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”*

*(Acts 9:17–18, NKJV)*

- Saul was already saved, *baptism into Christ*, on the road to Damascus
- Ananias lays hands on him and he receives the *baptism of the Holy Spirit*
- He is then *baptized in water*
- Sometimes the sequence can vary

*“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, “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”* (Acts 10:44–48, NKJV)

Here in our text, you see all three – (Acts 10:44–48, NKJV)

- Cornelious and his household hear the Gospel and believed
  - This is the *baptism into Christ*
- The Holy Spirit is poured out and the speak with other tongues
  - This is the *baptism in the Holy Spirit*
- They are then *baptized in water*

The early believers understood that even though the second and third baptisms were not essential for salvation they were not considered to be optional

- It was also recognized as the moment a new convert joined a local body of believers

In review, these three baptisms are included in the foundational “*doctrine of baptisms*”:

- *Baptism* by the Holy Spirit into the *Body of Christ*
- *Baptism* by Jesus into the power of the *Holy Spirit*
- *Baptism* by believers into *water*

Believers can receive water baptism and baptism into the power of the Holy Spirit at any time after they are saved

Remember — it is God’s will for you to experience all three baptisms and to walk in the fullness of what each one was designed to add to your spiritual foundation