

Baptism (2)

Acts 2:36-39

#1 Baptism

3. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

The Baptist Faith and Message emphasizes the importance of baptizing believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This clarifies who the true conductor of baptism is. Even though a pastor performs the baptism, **it's actually God who's working through the baptism** because every baptism is administered under the authority of the triune God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**” (Mt 3:16–17)



#2 Baptism

3. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Here, we see the presence of the triune God. The Spirit of God was there in the form of a dove, and God's voice from heaven officially announced that Jesus was the Son of God.

Likewise, even though we can't physically see God during a baptism ceremony, we know that the Triune God is certainly present.

Being baptized under the name of the triune God reminds us how God is working for our salvation. Paul beautifully describes **how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit work together for our salvation.**

#3 Baptism

3. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

1) God the Father

God the Father chose us, planned everything for our salvation, and revealed and promised it in the Old Testament through many signs and prophecies.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... For **he chose us in him**. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” (Eph 1:3–5)

2) God the Son

God the Son, Jesus Christ, achieved salvation through His precious blood He shed on the cross.

“In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (Eph 1:7)

#4 Baptism

3. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

3) God the Spirit

the Holy Spirit helps us and guides us to the end when we finally inherit the kingdom of God, which serves as a guarantee for our salvation.

“When you believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1:13-14)

So, Paul proclaims in the first part of Ephesians chapter 1 how the triune God has faithfully worked and will work for our salvation.

We’re saved because God the Father planned our salvation and chose us from the creation of the world, God the Son perfectly achieved our salvation on the cross through His death and resurrection, and God the Spirit empowers, helps, and guides us, guaranteeing that we’ll be saved when Jesus comes back.

#5 Who Can Be Baptized?

We're baptized not because we 'have been' like Jesus, but because we want to and choose to be like Jesus.

Baptism doesn't require your works or life but only your faith. **If you really believe in Jesus and accept the truth** that Jesus died for you and was resurrected from the dead to give you His righteousness, you're more than qualified to be baptized no matter how 'weak' you think your faith is based on your life.

We're saved not by our own works or righteousness, but solely by our faith in Christ Jesus, who died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead. That's the kind of faith that Christian baptism requires. That's the only criterion for baptism.

#6 Who Can Be Baptized?

We see this from some examples of baptism written in the book of Acts.

1) Peter Baptizes the Crowds

Being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter, who had denied Jesus three times less than 2 months before, boldly went out to the streets and proclaimed the gospel,

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah**”
(Ac 2:36)



“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**” (Ac 2:37)

“**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.**” (Ac 2:38–39)

#7 Who Can Be Baptized?

1) Peter Baptizes the Crowds

The Bible goes on, “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and **about three thousand** were added to their number that day” (Ac 2:41)

The crowds probably included people who had wanted Jesus to be crucified. But they repented of their wrongdoings and accepted Jesus as their Savior. That day, they were baptized simply because they believed in Him.

2) Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch

In Acts 8, we read the conversation Philip had with an Ethiopian eunuch.

When Phillip approached him, he found that the eunuch was reading a passage from the book of Isaiah, which was one of the famous prophecies about the Messiah.

#8 Who Can Be Baptized?

2) Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch

Even though the Ethiopian man read the passage, he didn't understand its meaning or whom this passage referred to. So Philip went to him and told him the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Then, verse 36 says, “As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “**Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?**” (Ac 8:36)

Some manuscripts say in verse 37 that Philip said, “**If you believe with all your heart, you may,**” and the eunuch answered, “**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**” (Acts 8:37)

#9 Who Can Be Baptized?

2) Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch

“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” (Ac 8:38)



Before he met Philip, the man hadn't even heard about Jesus. But when Philip proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ through the passage he was reading from the book of Isaiah, the eunuch believed what he heard, had faith in Jesus, and was baptized.

We can find some other stories of people being baptized in the New Testament. And not a single one of them implies that the apostles demanded 'proof of faith' or one's works in baptizing people. The only thing the apostles saw was whether or not they believed in Jesus Christ and accepted His gospel.

Memory Verses

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... For **he chose us in him**... In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” (Eph 1:3-5) (2)

“**In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (Eph 1:7) (1)

“When you believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...” (Eph 1:13-14) (1)

“**Repent and be baptized, every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Ac 2:38-39) (2)

Reflection Questions

- 1) What do you think it means to be baptized in the name of the Father, the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit? What are the distinctive roles of the Triune God in regard to salvation?
- 2) What conditions do you think need to be met in order to be baptized?
- 3) Do you want to be baptized? Why or why not?