

Baptisms

By Isaac Aluochier

Baptisms

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The Works Of John The Baptizer

Matthew 3:1-17 reads,

^{3:1}*In those days, John the Baptizer came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,* ^{3:2}**“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”** ^{3:3}*For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying,*

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Make ready the way of the Lord,
Make his paths straight.”*

^{3:4}*Now John himself had clothing made of camel’s hair, and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.* ^{3:5}*Then people from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him.* ^{3:6}**They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.** ^{3:7}*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”* ^{3:8}**Therefore bring forth fruit worthy of repentance!** ^{3:9}*Don’t think to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.*

^{3:10}*“Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t bring forth good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.”* ^{3:11}**I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit.** ^{3:12}*His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.”*

^{3:13}*Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.* ^{3:14}*But John would have hindered him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?”*

^{3:15}*But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it now, for this is the fitting way for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him.* ^{3:16}**Jesus, when he was baptized, went up directly from the water: and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming on him.** ^{3:17}*Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

People Ought To Repent

3:2 implies that because the kingdom of heaven is at hand people ought to repent. In other words, the coming of the kingdom of heaven should find people having already repented.

Repent Of What?

What are people to repent of?

3:6 shows that the people John baptised confessed their sins at the time of their baptism. Implying that baptism and confession of sins accompany one another.

3:8 implies that the repentance that John spoke of concerned sin. In other words, people should repent of their sins prior to the coming of the kingdom of heaven, for the coming of the kingdom of heaven should find them already having repented of their sins.

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What Is Fruit Worthy Of Repentance?

Fruit worthy of repentance, also called "good fruit" in 3:10, includes confession of sins and subsequently living a life devoid of sin. In other words, one abandons a sinful lifestyle and commences to live a righteous or good lifestyle.

When Baptism In Water Should Be Performed

3:11 shows that water baptism is performed when one repents of one's sins, confessing them and living a life devoid of them.

Another Baptism - In The Holy Spirit

3:11 also shows that there is another baptism, a baptism of the Holy Spirit. This baptism is performed by Yah'shuah the Christ, the one greater and mightier than John.

John in 3:14 implied that he needed to be baptised by Christ in Christ's baptism of the Holy Spirit, rather than in water baptism, which he undoubtedly had already had.

3:16 shows that after his baptism in water, Christ received his baptism in the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove. In other words, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the coming into one of the Holy Spirit and his indwelling presence in that one.

Make Disciples And Baptise Them

Matthew 28:18-20 reads,

*^{28:18}Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ^{28:19}Go, and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ^{28:20}teaching them to observe all things which I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

John Preached Baptism Of Repentance For Forgiveness Of Sins

Mark 1:1-11 reads,

^{1:1}The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ^{1:2}As it is written in the prophets,

*"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
Who will prepare your way before you.*

^{1:3}The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

'Make ready the way of the Lord!

Make his paths straight!'"

*^{1:4}John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. ^{1:5}All the country of Judea and all those of Jerusalem went out to him. **They were baptized by him in the Jordan river, confessing their sins.** ^{1:6}John was clothed with camel's hair and a leather belt around his loins. He ate locusts and wild honey. ^{1:7}He preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. ^{1:8}**I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.**"*

*^{1:9}It happened in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ^{1:10}**Immediately coming up from the water, he saw***

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the heavens parting, and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ^{1:11} A voice came out of the sky, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Those Who Are Saved

Mark 16:14-18 reads,

^{16:14}Afterward he was revealed to the eleven themselves as they sat at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they didn't believe those who had seen him after he had risen. ^{16:15}He said to them, “**Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.** ^{16:16}**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who disbelieves will be condemned.** ^{16:17}These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; ^{16:18}they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

To facilitate one's salvation one should both believe the gospel and be baptised.

Which baptism is Christ speaking about, the one in water, the one in the Holy Spirit, or both?

John Explained Repentance

Luke 3:1-22 reads,

^{3:1}Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ^{3:2}in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness. ^{3:3}He came into all the region around the Jordan, **preaching the baptism of repentance to remission of sins.** ^{3:4}As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

‘Make ready the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.

^{3:5}Every valley will be filled.

Every mountain and hill will be brought low.

The crooked will become straight,

And the rough ways smooth.

^{3:6}All flesh will see God's salvation.”

^{3:7}He said therefore to the multitudes who went out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ^{3:8}**Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance,** and don't begin to say among yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father;’ for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones! ^{3:9}Even now the ax also lies at the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that doesn't **bring forth good fruit** is cut down, and thrown into the fire.”

^{3:10}The multitudes asked him, “**What then must we do?**”

^{3:11}He answered them, “**He who has two coats, let him give to him who has none. He who has food, let him do likewise.**”

^{3:12}Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, **what must we do?**”

^{3:13}He said to them, “**Collect no more than that which is appointed to you.**”

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^{3:14} *Soldiers also asked him, saying, "What about us? **What must we do?**"*

*He said to them, "Extort from no one by violence, neither accuse anyone wrongfully. **Be content with your wages.**"*

^{3:15} *As the people were in expectation, and all men reasoned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he was the Christ, ^{3:16} John answered them all, "**I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the latchet of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, ^{3:17} whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**"*

^{3:18} *Then with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people, ^{3:19} but Herod the tetrarch, being reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things which Herod had done, ^{3:20} added this also to them all, that he shut up John in prison. ^{3:21} Now it happened, when all the people were baptized, that, **Jesus also having been baptized, and praying, the sky was opened, ^{3:22} and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form, as a dove on him; and a voice came out of the sky, saying "You are my beloved Son. In you I am well pleased."***

Fruit Worthy Of Repentance Stems From The Heart

John taught the people what "good fruit", "fruit worthy of repentance", that which facilitates the remission of sins, was. 3:11 shows that it involves sharing what one has with the needy, those who do not have what one has. It involves being upright in the performance of one's duties, without exceeding or abusing one's authority or position. It involves being appreciative of what is due to one.

It is therefore evident that good fruit, worthy of repentance, involves not only the doing of good, but also a good heart that facilitates and motivates the performance of good. In other words, it is not just action only, but action together with the heart facilitating the action.

Baptism In Fire

3:17 shows that Christ was to baptise not only in the Holy Spirit, but also in fire. What is baptism in fire?

3:18 shows that it involves a separation being made between the wheat and the chaff, with the chaff being burned up with unquenchable fire. Who are the chaff?

3:9 likens human being to trees, with a requirement placed upon them to bring good fruit, fruit worthy of repentance. Seeing that trees that do not bring forth good fruit are thrown into the fire, it is indeed implied that people who do not bring forth fruit worthy of repentance are thrown into the fire.

Seeing that Christ is the one to baptise people in fire, and those baptised in fire are those humans who do not repent, who do not bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, it is indeed evident that the chaff that John spoke about are unrepentant humans.

The Mouth Speaks Out Of The Abundance Of The Heart

Luke 6:41-45 reads,

^{6:41} *Why do you see **the speck of chaff** that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye? ^{6:42} Or how can you tell your brother, 'Brother, let*

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me remove the speck of chaff that is in your eye,' when you yourself don't see the beam that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck of chaff that is in your brother's eye. ^{6:43}**For there is no good tree that brings forth rotten fruit; nor again a rotten tree that brings forth good fruit.** ^{6:44}*For each tree is known by its own fruit. For people don't gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush.* ^{6:45}**The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings out that which is good, and the evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out that which is evil, for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks.**

Christ's words in 6:43-45 confirms John's teaching concerning repentance for baptism for the remission of sins, involving not only outward conduct, but also the heart that motivates the outward conduct.

John Acknowledged That Yah'shuah Was Greater Than He Was

John 1:24-34 reads,

^{1:24}*The ones who had been sent were from the Pharisees.* ^{1:25}*They asked him, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"*

^{1:26}*John answered them, "I baptize in water, but among you stands one whom you don't know.* ^{1:27}**He is the one who comes after me, who has come to be before me, whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie."** ^{1:28}*These things were done in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

^{1:29}*On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* ^{1:30}*This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who is preferred before me, for he was before me.'* ^{1:31}*I didn't know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water: that he would be revealed to Israel."* ^{1:32}*John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him.* ^{1:33}*I didn't recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water, he said to me, 'On whoever you will see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'* ^{1:34}*I have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."*

Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Greater Than Baptism Of Water

Christ is greater than John. John baptised only in water. Christ baptises not only in water, but also in the Holy Spirit. It is therefore implied that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is GREATER than the baptism of water.

Why John Baptised In Water

1:31 shows that the reason John came baptising in water was for the revelation of Christ to Israel. Implying that baptism in water is tied to Christ, both to reveal him and also to point to him as the one who takes away the sins of the world.

Physical Requirement Of Baptism In Water

John 3:22-24 reads,

^{3:22}*After these things, Jesus came with his disciples into the land of Judea. He stayed there with them, and baptized.* ^{3:23}*John also was baptizing in Enon near Salim,*

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because there was much water there. They came, and were baptized. ^{3:24}For John was not yet thrown into prison.

Baptism in water, immersion in water, involves or requires much water.

How Yah'shuah Made And Baptised More Disciples Than John

John 4:1-3 reads,

^{4:1}Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that **Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John** ^{4:2}(*although Jesus himself didn't baptize, but his disciples*), ^{4:3}he left Judea, and departed into Galilee.

It is noted that the manner Yah'shuah baptises is by authorising his disciples to baptise those being baptised.

It is also noted that despite having commenced his baptism of people after John had already become widely known, and had baptised many for a period of time, Yah'shuah succeeded in making and baptising more disciples than John.

How did Yah'shuah do this?

4:2 shows that he used the disciples he had made and baptised to make and baptise more disciples, their doing this under his authority. Implying that a manner of making and baptising a great number of disciples in a short period of time is to teach those same disciples how to duplicate what one is doing. In other words, teaching them how they too should make and baptise Christ's disciples. It should therefore be a duty of Christ's disciples to both make and baptise disciples for Christ.

Baptism In The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-8 reads,

^{1:1}The first book I wrote, Theophilus, concerned all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, ^{1:2}until the day in which he was received up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ^{1:3}To these he also showed himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and spoke about God's kingdom. ^{1:4}Being assembled together with them, he charged them, "**Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me.**" ^{1:5}For John indeed baptized in water, but **you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**"

^{1:6}Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

^{1:7}He said to them, "It isn't for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within His own authority. ^{1:8}But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.**"

In 1:5 and 1:8 Yah'shuah explains what baptism in the Holy Spirit is. It is the Holy Spirit coming upon one. Therefore those upon whom the Holy Spirit comes have indeed been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

It should also be remembered from John's words that Christ is greater than John, having a baptism, of the Holy Spirit, that John did not have. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is greater than the baptism of water.

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How To Be Baptised In The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:37-41 reads,

^{2:37}Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, *what shall we do?*"

^{2:38}Peter said to them, "**Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** ^{2:39}*For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.*" ^{2:40}With many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

^{2:41}Then **those who gladly received his word were baptized.** There were added that day about three thousand souls.

2:38 talks about two baptisms, that of water and that of the Holy Spirit. For the baptism of water accompanies repentance from one's sins that one's sins may be forgiven. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2:38 shows that the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes AFTER one has repented of one's sins and has had one's sins forgiven.

Baptism In The Holy Spirit Available To All Human Beings

2:39 shows that the promise of the Holy Spirit, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, is available to all human beings, and not just Israelites. For the promise was to the Israelites that Peter was then speaking to, and also "to all who are far off", meaning the rest of human families.

Those Baptised In Water

2:41 notes that those who are baptised are those who receive with gladness the words of Christ that are preached to them.

What One Should Believe Before Being Baptised In Water

Acts 8:12 reads,

^{8:12}But when they believed Philip **preaching good news concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.

Those to be baptised are those who believe the good news concerning the kingdom of the Almighty and the name of Yah'shuah the Messiah. It is therefore essential that Christ's disciples preach both the good news of Yahweh's kingdom and the name of Yah'shuah the Messiah to prospective disciples that they may have an opportunity of believing, prior to their baptism in water.

How Some Believers Were Baptised In The Holy Spirit

Acts 8:14-24 reads,

^{8:14}Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ^{8:15}who, when they had come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit;** ^{8:16}for as yet he had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ^{8:17}Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

^{8:18}Now when Simon saw that **the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the**

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apostles' hands, he offered them money, ^{8:19}saying, "Give me also this power, that whoever I lay my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit." ^{8:20}But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ^{8:21}You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart isn't right before God. ^{8:22}Repent therefore of this, your wickedness, and ask God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. ^{8:23}For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."
^{8:24}Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that none of the things which you have spoken come on me."

Baptism In Water Is No Guarantee Of Baptism In The Holy Spirit

It should be noted that just because one has believed the word of the Almighty and has been baptised in water, after one's repentance, does not automatically mean that one becomes baptised in the Holy Spirit immediately thereafter. For despite the Samaritans having received the word and been baptised in water, they had not yet been baptised in the Holy Spirit. It should therefore not be assumed that just because someone has received the word and been baptised in water they automatically receive the Holy Spirit, thereby being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Laying On Of Hands Is Not The Only Way One May Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

8:17-18 shows that ONE way that one is baptised in the Holy Spirit is by both apostolic prayer and the laying on upon one of apostles' hands. Nevertheless, it should not be assumed that this is the ONLY manner that one is baptised in the Holy Spirit. For the apostles Peter and John, who laid their hands on the Samaritans after praying for them, did not receive their baptism in the Holy Spirit by other apostles laying their hands upon them. For Acts 2:1-4 reads,

^{2:1}Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. ^{2:2}Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ^{2:3}Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and it sat on each one of them. ^{2:4}They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

It should therefore be clear that one can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit DIRECTLY, without apostles' hands being laid upon one. Therefore when it is Yahweh's will that one is baptised in the Holy Spirit directly then so is one. When it is his will that one is baptised in the Holy Spirit through the laying upon one of apostles' hands then so is one. There is therefore more than one way for one to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

True Repentance Supersedes Belief In Christ And Yahweh's Kingdom

8:21-24 shows that true repentance does not involve the mere confession of one's belief in the kingdom of the Almighty and the name of Yah'shuah the Messiah, followed by baptism in water. True repentance involves confession of one's sins and changing from them, doing righteousness. True repentance involves not only visible actions, but also a change of heart that motivates the performance of good deeds.

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Simon Of Samaria, A Believer, Had Not Truly Repented

From Simon's words Peter perceived that Simon's heart was not right before the Almighty, indicating that Simon had not yet truly repented, despite having professed his belief in both the good news of the kingdom of Yahweh and the name of Yah'shuah the Messiah, and been subsequently baptised. For Acts 8:13 reads,

^{8:13}Simon himself also believed. Being baptized, he continued with Philip. Seeing signs and great miracles done, he was amazed.

Baptism In Water Does Not Prove True Repentance

It should therefore be evident that just because someone believes the good news of the kingdom of Yahweh and the name of Yah'shuah the Messiah, and is baptised in water, does not automatically mean that one has truly repented, from one's heart. For those baptised in the Holy Spirit are those who have truly repented and have believed.

The Father Knows Those Who Have Truly Repented

It should also be noted that the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father, and comes from the Father. It should also be noted that the Father sees humans not as man sees. For man looks at the outward appearance, the things that he can see. But the Father looks at the heart, which ordinarily man cannot see. For 1 Samuel 16:7 reads,

^{16:7}But Yahweh said to Samuel, "Don't look on his face, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Yahweh sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart."

Seeing that the Holy Spirit comes from the Father, and it is the Father who sees human hearts, and therefore knows those hearts that are truly repentant and those that are not, he baptises in the Holy Spirit only those humans who have truly repented. Therefore even if one has believed the good news of his kingdom, and the name of his Son Yah'shuah the Messiah, and has been baptised in water, if such a one has not truly repented, even as Simon of Samaria had not truly repented, such a one is not baptised in the Holy Spirit! Such a one may appear for a time to human eyes to have been baptised in the Holy Spirit. But, in truth, until and unless such time as the Father baptises such a one in the Holy Spirit such a one is not baptised in the Holy Spirit!

Simon Of Samaria Did Not Seek True Repentance

Simon's response to Peter in 8:24 also shows Simon's concern. He was more concerned with averting his perishing, than with seeking to truly repent. For he did not seek to have a change of heart, but only sought to avoid the penalty of sin without repenting of the sin bringing about the penalty!

Belief In Yah'shuah As Yahweh's Son Necessary For Baptism In Water

Acts 8:26-39 reads,

^{8:26}But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south to the way that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is a desert."

^{8:27}He arose and went. Behold, there was a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure,

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who had come to Jerusalem to worship. ^{8:28}He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

^{8:29}The Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and join yourself to this chariot."

^{8:30}Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

^{8:31}He said, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" He begged Philip to come up and sit with him. ^{8:32}Now the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this,

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.

As a lamb before his shearer is silent,

So he doesn't open his mouth.

^{8:33}In his humiliation, his judgment was taken away.

Who will declare His generations?

For his life is taken from the earth."

^{8:34}The eunuch answered Philip, "Please tell who the prophet is talking about: about himself, or about some other?"

^{8:35}**Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, preached to him Jesus.** ^{8:36}As they went on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water. What is keeping me from being baptized?"

^{8:37}Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." He answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."¹ ^{8:38}He commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

^{8:39}When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, and the eunuch didn't see him any more, for he went on his way rejoicing.

Baptism In Water Should Take Place Immediately One Becomes A Believer In Yah'shuah

It should be noted that once Yah'shuah has been preached to one, and one believes the good news of Yahweh's kingdom, of which Yah'shuah is an intrinsic part, that one should be baptised. If the one is already truly repentant, both in heart and in conduct, then there should be no delay to their baptism in water.

It Did Not Take Philip Long To Preach Yah'shuah

It should also be noted that it did not take a very long time for Philip to preach Yah'shuah to the Ethiopian eunuch. Just the time it took for him to explain particular Scriptures. Seeing that the Ethiopian eunuch already believed in the Scriptures, all that he needed was an understanding of the very Scriptures he believed in. And once he understood them he believed their fulfilment in Yah'shuah the Messiah.

What Christ's Disciples Can Learn From Philip

It therefore seems that Christ's disciples can learn from Philip. They should be thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures, especially those portions that pertain to Christ and were fulfilled by his coming in the flesh. These can then be exposed to those who accept the Scriptures that they may have an opportunity of believing that Yah'shuah is indeed Yahweh's anointed Son, repent of their sins, and be baptised in water.

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Does Baptism In The Holy Spirit Always Immediately Follow Baptism In Water?

It should be noted that in the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch there is no record that the latter immediately received the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the time he received his baptism in water. It is therefore presumed that his baptism in the Holy Spirit took place after Philip had departed from him.

Saul's Conversion And Early Days As A Disciple Of Christ

Acts 9:1-31 reads,

^{9:1}But Saul, still breathing threats and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ^{9:2}and asked for letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ^{9:3}As he traveled, it happened that he got close to Damascus, and suddenly a light from the sky shone around him. ^{9:4}He fell on the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

^{9:5}He said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ^{9:6}But rise up, and enter into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

^{9:7}The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one. ^{9:8}Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no one. They led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ^{9:9}He was without sight for three days, and neither ate nor drank.

*^{9:10}Now **there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias**. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!"*

He said, "Behold, it's me, Lord."

*^{9:11}The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, ^{9:12}and **in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in, and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight.**"*

^{9:13}But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he did to your saints at Jerusalem. ^{9:14}Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

^{9:15}But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is my chosen vessel to bear my name before the nations and kings, and the children of Israel. ^{9:16}For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake."

*^{9:17}Ananias departed, and entered into the house. **Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you in the way which you came, has sent me, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."***

*^{9:18}Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. **He arose and was baptized.** ^{9:19}He took food and was strengthened. **Saul stayed several days with the disciples who were at Damascus.** ^{9:20}**Immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed the Christ, that he is the Son of God.** ^{9:21}All who heard him were amazed, and said, "Isn't this he who in Jerusalem made havoc of those who called on this name? And he had come here intending to bring them bound before the chief priests!"*

^{9:22}But Saul increased more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived at Damascus, proving that this is the Christ. ^{9:23}When many days were fulfilled, the

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*Jews conspired together to kill him, ^{9:24}but their plot became known to Saul. They watched the gates both day and night that they might kill him, ^{9:25}but **his disciples** took him by night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. ^{9:26}When Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples. **They were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.** ^{9:27}**But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.** ^{9:28}He was with them going in and going out at Jerusalem, ^{9:29}preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and disputed against the Grecian Jews, but they were seeking to kill him. ^{9:30}When the brothers knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him out to Tarsus. ^{9:31}So the assemblies throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, and were built up. They were multiplied, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.*

Ananias Is Recorded As A Disciple, Not An Apostle

9:10 shows that Ananias was a disciple. There is no record here that he was an apostle.

Those Who Lay Hands Are Not Necessarily Apostles

9:12 shows that those who lay hands upon others are not necessarily apostles. For Ananias, even though he was not an apostle, was to lay hands on Saul.

9:17 shows that Ananias was authorised to lay hands on Saul not only for the purpose of Saul receiving his sight, but also receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It should therefore be noted that the authority to lay hands on a disciple that the disciple may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit is NOT given exclusively to someone who is an apostle. It is instead given to any disciple that Christ has chosen to so give this gift.

Philip The Evangelist Did Not Have The Gift Of Transmitting The Holy Spirit Through The Laying On Of His Hands

It should also be noted from Acts 8 that even though Philip was preaching the good news of the kingdom of Yahweh and the name of Yah'shuah, and was subsequently baptising in water those who received the word, and had the gift of the Holy Spirit communicating directly with him, he did not have the gift of laying hands on disciples that they may be baptised in the Holy Spirit. For the apostles Peter and John, who both had this gift, had to travel from Jerusalem to Samaria in order to lay hands on the new disciples that they may be baptised in the Holy Spirit. It should therefore be understood that the gift of laying hands on a disciple that the disciple may be baptised in the Holy Spirit is one that Christ gives to whichever disciple he so chooses to give this gift to. It is not a gift that goes with rank, but is one given to whomever Christ wills.

Saul Baptised In The Holy Spirit Before Being Baptised In Water

9:17-18 notes that Saul received his baptism in the Holy Spirit BEFORE he received his baptism in water. In other words, just because one has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit does not exclude one from receiving the baptism in water. The command of Christ that his disciples should be baptised in water, for the forgiveness of their sins, is not negated by

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one having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit prior to receiving the baptism in water. It therefore appears that all of Christ's disciples should be baptised in water, in obedience to Christ's words.

A New Disciple Should Immediately Begin To Proclaim Yah'shuah As The Christ

9:20 shows that once a person has become a disciple of Christ he should immediately commence on the task of proclaiming the name of Yah'shuah, that he is indeed the Christ. A person should not necessarily wait until some artificial period of time before commencing on the task of so proclaiming Yah'shuah as the Christ.

Saul Succeeded In Making Believers In Damascus

That 9:22 says that Saul increased more in strength suggests that he was succeeding in his task of persuading those he preached to that Yah'shuah was indeed Yahweh's Christ, and doing so in a considerable way.

Saul Had His Own Disciples In Damascus Shortly After His Baptisms

9:25 shows that Saul had disciples in Damascus! In other words, Saul's preaching in Damascus had already borne fruit to a degree whereby he already had students that he was teaching the way of Christ.

What Christ's Disciples Should Be Doing

It should be evident from Saul's experience in Damascus that a new disciple should really not wait for some artificial period of time to commence preaching Yah'shuah. Once a new disciple has understanding of what it is that he should be preaching, he should commence so preaching the word immediately, and persuading others to Yah'shuah's way. Those he persuades to Yah'shuah's way he should then teach Yah'shuah's way. For the process of making disciples for Christ implies that one becomes a teacher of those students or disciples of Christ. A new disciple should therefore very quickly work on the process of understanding the word, and then preaching that word to make new disciples, and then teaching the new disciples made to become effective disciples in their own right. To become effective disciples in their own right they must be taught the word, given understanding of it, and taught also how to both preach the word, and also how to teach their new disciples the same process.

A Disciple Of Christ Is Not Always Recognised By Other Disciples Of Christ

9:26 shows that just because one is a disciple does not guarantee that other disciples of Christ will recognise that one as a disciple of Christ. For humans do not see as Yahweh sees, looking only to outward appearances, rather than to the heart.

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What Should We Do If A Stranger Claims To Be A Disciple Of Christ?

It appears to me that whereby a person claims to be a disciple, and it is not apparent to us that the person is indeed a disciple, we should ask Yahweh to reveal to us whether or not that person is indeed a disciple. We should not reject outright the person so claiming, for he might really indeed be a disciple, and we would then be found to have rejected one of Yah'shuah's own little ones.

Non-Israelites Receive Baptism In The Holy Spirit

Acts 10:30-48 reads,

^{10:30}Cornelius said, “Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour, and at the ninth hour, I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,
^{10:31}and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer is heard, and your gifts to the needy are remembered in the sight of God. ^{10:32}Send therefore to Joppa, and summon Simon, who is surnamed Peter. He lodges in the house of Simon a tanner, by the seaside. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ ^{10:33}Therefore I sent to you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God to hear all things that have been commanded you by God.”

^{10:34}Peter opened his mouth and said, “**Truly I perceive that God doesn’t show favoritism;** ^{10:35}**but in every nation he who fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him.** ^{10:36}The word which he sent to the children of Israel, **preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ** — he is Lord of all — ^{10:37}that spoken word you yourselves know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; ^{10:38}even Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ^{10:39}We are witnesses of all things which he did both in the country of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they also killed, hanging him on a tree. ^{10:40}God raised him up the third day, and gave him to be revealed, ^{10:41}not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen before by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ^{10:42}**He charged us to preach to the people and to testify that this is he who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead.** ^{10:43}All the prophets testify about him, that **through his name everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.**”

^{10:44}While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word.** ^{10:45}They of the circumcision who believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles.** ^{10:46}**For they heard them speak with other languages and magnify God.** Then Peter answered, ^{10:47}“**Can any man forbid the water, that these who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we should not be baptized?**” ^{10:48}**He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay some days.**

That Word That Ought To Be Believed

It should be noted from 10:36 and 10:42 that the word the apostles preached included the good news of peace that Yah'shuah preached, together with the testimony about Yah'shuah, his status as determined by Yahweh. The word preached is therefore both about Yah'shuah and the message Yah'shuah preached.

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Those Who Receive Baptism In The Holy Spirit

10:43-44 shows that those who receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit are those who believe in Yah'shuah, that through Yah'shuah they obtain remission of sins and therefore reconciliation with Yahweh.

Baptism In The Holy Spirit Is A Gift From Yahweh

10:45 notes that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a GIFT from Yahweh. Humans have no right to the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

One Way Of Determining Whether One Has Received Baptism In The Holy Spirit

10:46 shows one way by which it may be determined that a person has indeed received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. That is speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gives one utterance, and magnifying Yahweh in the speech in these other languages.

Saul Was Not Given The Gift Of Speaking In Other Languages Immediately After His Baptism In The Holy Spirit

It appears that Saul, after he had received his baptism in the Holy Spirit, was NOT immediately given the gift of speaking in other languages. For if he had the disciples in Jerusalem would have recognised that he was one of them, seeing that he had already received the Holy Spirit. But the initial failure of the Jerusalem disciples to recognise Saul of a fellow disciple indicates that at the time he was in Jerusalem he was not speaking in other languages, whereby the disciples would have recognised him as a fellow disciple.

Not Speaking In Other Languages Does Not Prove That One Has Not Received Baptism In The Holy Spirit

It should therefore be noted that speaking in other languages is a GIFT of the Holy Spirit that is given to some disciples, but not to all disciples. Also, just because a person has not been given the gift of speaking in other languages is NOT PROOF that that person has not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. For some disciples have indeed received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, yet have not been given the additional gift of speaking in other languages.

Those Baptised In The Holy Spirit Should Also Be Baptised In Water

10:47-48 shows that as in the case of Saul, the non-Jewish disciples who had just been baptised in the Holy Spirit had to subsequently be baptised in water, in obedience to their Master, Yah'shuah, who commanded that all new disciples be baptised in water.

Peter Explains What Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Is

Acts 11:15-18 reads,

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^{11:15}As I began to speak, **the Holy Spirit fell on them, even as on us at the beginning.**

^{11:16}I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘**John indeed baptized with water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.**’ ^{11:17}If then God gave to them the same gift as us, when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could withstand God?”

^{11:18}When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, “**Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life!**”

Peter's words in 11:15-17 confirm that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the receipt of the Holy Spirit.

It Is Yahweh Who Grants A Person True Repentance

11:18 shows that true repentance is something that Yahweh grants a person. In other words, if Yahweh has not granted a particular person's heart to truly change from the way of iniquity to the way of righteousness, that person has not truly repented. Such a person does not receive the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the gift that Yahweh gives. For Yahweh gives the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit only to those that he has already granted true repentance, involving both the heart and outward actions.

It Is Yahweh Who Opens A Person's Heart To Receive His Word

Acts 16:13-15 reads,

^{16:13}On the Sabbath day we went forth outside of the city by a riverside, **where we supposed there was a place of prayer**, and we sat down, and spoke to the women who had come together. ^{16:14}A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, **one who worshiped God, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened to listen to the things which were spoken by Paul.** ^{16:15}When she and her household were **baptized**, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and stay.” She urged us.

It should be noted from 16:14 that it is Yahweh who opens the hearts of people who receive his word. In other words, unless Yahweh opens the heart of a person, that person will not be receptive to Yahweh's word when preached to that person.

16:15 reiterates that once a person has received the word, and has truly repented, that person should be baptised in water.

Action Necessary For Salvation

Acts 16:22-34 reads,

^{16:22}The multitude rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their clothes off of them, and commanded them to be beaten with rods. ^{16:23}When they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely, ^{16:24}who, having received such a charge, threw them into the inner prison, and secured their feet in the stocks.

^{16:25}But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ^{16:26}Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. ^{16:27}The jailer, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself,

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supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ^{16:28}But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, "Don't harm yourself, for we are all here!"

*^{16:29}He called for lights and sprang in, and, fell down trembling before Paul and Silas, ^{16:30}and brought them out and said, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**"*

*^{16:31}They said, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**" ^{16:32}They spoke the word of the Lord to him, and to all who were in his house.*

*^{16:33}**He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes, and was immediately baptized, he and all his household.** ^{16:34}He brought them up into his house, and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, with all his household, having believed in God.*

16:30 notes that the jailer desired salvation, and was willing to do whatever it took to attain to salvation.

16:31 shows that salvation comes via BELIEF in the Master Yah'shuah the Messiah. Therefore, in order to be saved one must indeed believe in Yah'shuah.

16:32-33 shows that once one has believed in Yah'shuah, after the word of and on Yah'shuah has been spoken to one, that one should be baptised immediately, without unduly postponing that one's baptism.

Yahweh Uses Signs To Change People's Hearts

It should also be noted that in this case the jailer, after having witnessed the miracle that took place in the jail, already had an open and willing heart. In other words, Yahweh used the miracle to open his heart to receive his word, and also to repent from his heart. Therefore, once one repents from the heart, and from the heart believes in Yah'shuah, that person should be baptised in water without any delay.

Why The Jailer Was Baptised Together With All His Household

It should also be noted that the reason that the jailer was baptised together with his entire household is because the word was spoken to him together with his entire household, and they all received the word. In other words, all that receive the word should be baptised in water.

Political Strength Facilitates The Preaching Of Christ

Acts 18:7-10 reads,

*^{18:7}He departed there, and went into the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ^{18:8}Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house. **Many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.** ^{18:9}The Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Don't be afraid, but speak and don't be silent; ^{18:10}for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city."*

18:10 shows that for Christ's disciples to work in peace it is necessary that they have political forces in their favour. And having political forces in one's favour entails having many people in one's favour.

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Superiority Of Yah'shuah's Baptism Over John's Baptism

Acts 18:24-19:10 reads,

^{18:24}Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus. He was mighty in the Scriptures. ^{18:25}**This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John.** ^{18:26}He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. **But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

^{18:27}When he had determined to pass over into Achaia, **the brothers encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him.** When he had come, he helped them much, who had believed through grace; ^{18:28}for he powerfully refuted the Jews, publicly showing by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

^{19:1}It happened that, while Apollos was at Corinth, **Paul, having passed through the upper country, came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples.** ^{19:2}He said to them, **“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”**

They said to him, **“No, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”**

^{19:3}He said, **“Into what then were you baptized?”**

They said, **“Into John’s baptism.”**

^{19:4}Paul said, **“John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, on Jesus.”**

^{19:5}**When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.**

^{19:6}**When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with other languages, and prophesied.** ^{19:7}They were about twelve men in all.

^{19:8}He entered into the synagogue, and spoke boldly for a period of three months, reasoning and persuading about the things concerning the kingdom of God.

^{19:9}**But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.** ^{19:10}This continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Willingly Learn From Those More Knowledgeable Than You

18:25-26 shows that even though one may be like Apollos, knowing accurately to a degree the way of Yah'shuah, when one meets another who knows more accurately the way of Yah'shuah, the one should willingly learn from the other the greater accuracy of the way of Yah'shuah.

Help A True Disciple Of Christ To Be Recognised By Other Disciples Of Christ

18:27 shows that where a disciple has already ascertained that one is indeed a fellow disciple, the disciple should act to facilitate the receipt by other disciples of the disciple that he has ascertained is genuine, that the other disciples may readily receive him. For human beings do not naturally receive another unless accredited by one they respect.

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All Who Have Not Received Yah'shuah's Baptism Should Receive Yah'shuah's Baptism

19:1-7 shows that people who had received only John's baptism in water for repentance need to also receive Yah'shuah's baptism in water for repentance. For John's work only pointed to Yah'shuah, seeing that John was not the Christ. Therefore those coming under the umbrella of Christ need to be baptised with Yah'shuah's baptism, seeing that Yah'shuah is the Christ.

It should also be noted that even though these disciples had repented, as evidenced by their both being disciples and having received John's baptism, they still needed to acknowledge Yah'shuah as the Christ. This acknowledgement was made by their entering into Yah'shuah's baptism, accepting Yah'shuah as the Christ who saves from sin. In other words, one's belief in Yah'shuah is manifested by baptism in water in Yah'shuah's name.

Paul Had The Holy Spirit Gift Of Laying Hands On Other Disciples

19:6 shows that Paul had the gift of the Holy Spirit of laying hands on disciples that they may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. For when Paul laid his hands on John's disciples, who were now new disciples in Yah'shuah, they received their baptism in the Holy Spirit.

It should also be noted that these were people who had previously not even heard of the existence of the Holy Spirit. But when the word was preached to them they indeed believed, and were baptised with both the baptism in water in Yah'shuah's name, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Preaching Yah'shuah Entails Preaching The Holy Spirit

It is evident that preaching Yah'shuah includes preaching the Holy Spirit. That those receiving Yah'shuah should also learn about the Holy Spirit, and learn also of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When People Disagree On The Word They Should Separate

19:9 shows that where a disagreement on the word comes about, a separation should take place. That those who believe in the word may continue alone, without sharing company with those who do not believe in the word.

Baptism In Yah'shuah Signifies A Washing Away Of One's Sins

Acts 22:12-16 reads,

^{22:12}One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived there, ^{22:13}came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him. ^{22:14}He said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. ^{22:15}For you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard. ^{22:16}Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

22:16 shows that baptism in water signifies washing away of one's sins. In other words, when one has repented of one's sins, both in the heart and by outward conduct, that one's baptism in water in Yah'shuah's name signifies that that one's sins have been forgiven, made possible by Yah'shuah's sacrifice. It therefore appears that part of the preaching of the word on Yah'shuah prior to baptism must include Yah'shuah's sacrifice for the sins of all sinners.

Baptisms

Noah's Ark A Symbol Of Baptism

1 Peter 3:17-22 reads,

^{3:17}For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that you suffer for doing well than for doing evil. ^{3:18}Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ^{3:19}in which he also went and preached to the spirits in prison, ^{3:20}who before were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built. In it, few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. ^{3:21}**This is a symbol of baptism**, which now saves you - not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ^{3:22}who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him.

How is Noah's ark a symbol of baptism, as Peter says in 3:21?