

Biblical Method of Water Baptism

Some people are in confusion as to what constitutes the biblical method of baptism. Some feel that sprinkling or pouring of water is sufficient. Most of all we must remember the fact that repentance is a prerequisite for baptism. In this lesson, we will explore what the Bible says about the method of baptism.

First let's review the documented facts in the Bible on how people during the New Testament period were baptized. In **John 3:23** we read, *"Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there."* Noticed is says, *"Because there was much water there."* So according to the Bible, baptism which is immersion, requires much water.

In **Mark 1:5** we read, *"Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to Him, and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River."*

In **Mark 1:9-10**, we continue to read, *"And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove."* When Jesus was baptized, he was baptized in the Jordan River. Also notice that after Jesus was baptized, he came *"up out of the water."*

Acts 8:36-39. The evangelist, Philip, had been teaching the gospel or good news of Christ to an Ethiopian eunuch while they were riding along in a chariot. Then in verses 36-39 we read: *"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? And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."*

Here we see that the baptism that God has authorized in the Bible requires the *"coming to some water"*, *"going down into the water,"* and *"coming up out of the water."* How much clearer could the Bible be on the method of water baptism?

Biblical Significance of Water Baptism:

Romans 6:4 says, *"Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death."* Here we see that baptism is a burial, which is what is done when one is immersed.

Colossians 2:12 says that we are *"buried with him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him."*