

V. Ministry Series--Water Baptism

Directions for the student of The Ministry Series: Focus on one question at a time. Read the question and answers. Look up scripture whenever possible, because reading the bible passages will help you understand the concepts and remember them more clearly. Learn the underlined parts of the answers. Be able to say the underlined parts, either in your own words, or by quoting word-for-word. When learning scripture, be able to say the scripture reference and the underlined parts, using either the NKJV (quoted here), or another translation (show your tester). Repetition aids memorization. Therefore ask three different people to test you, so that you are tested three separate times on every item. You may study the questions in any order you want. You may answer a question a little at a time, with study intervals between test sessions. If you answer a question a little at a time, ask your tester to check the parts of the answer you know with small check marks (and put small initials on their check marks). Ask your tester to sign the left margin when you know all the parts of a question. You have completed a question when it has three different signatures in the margin beside it. Have fun!

1. Why is it important for every believer to be baptized?

- a. Jesus commanded that all believers to be baptized, Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16.
- b. By baptism we are freed from old bondages, and raised to newness of life in Christ, Romans 6:3-14; Colossians 2:11-15; Isaiah 53:5-12; Gal. 3:27; 2:20; 5:24; 6:14.
- c. Jesus Himself was baptized, leaving us an example, Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:21.

2. Why should believers be baptized by immersion?

- a. Jesus was baptized by immersion, Matthew 3:16 “Jesus came up immediately from the water.” See also Acts 8:39
- b. The word “baptism” in Greek is ‘baptidzo.’ It means to immerse, submerge, to make fully wet.

3. Who can baptize someone?

Any believer can baptize another believer.

4. What kind of physical facility can be used to baptize someone?

Any place where there is enough water to submerge a person can be used. John the Baptist and Jesus’ disciples baptized in a river. Swimming pools and bathtubs have also been used. If possible, heat the water enough to be comfortable.

5. What are some other considerations?

Clothing—ask people to wear dark-colored shirts and pants.

Electronics—do not allow anything plugged into an electrical circuit near the water.

6. What should you say and do when you baptize someone?

- a. Ask the person if they have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- b. If they have received Christ, ask them confess their faith out loud by saying something like, “Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.”
- c. Then say out loud, “On the confession of your faith in Jesus Christ, and in obedience to scripture, I baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ.”
- d. Support them behind their back. Have them hold their nose with one hand, while you hold their wrist with your free hand. Immerse them in water, submerging them

backwards into the water while supporting them. Once submerged, bring them up quickly. Help them get out of the water.

7. Why do we baptize in the name of Jesus Christ?

- a. This is the way people in the New Testament were baptized,
Acts 2:38 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...."
See also Acts 8:16; 10:48; Acts 19:5.
- b. We do everything in the name of Christ, for He is our source of authority.
Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Why should every believer be baptized as soon as possible after their salvation?

People have asked me if they need to be baptized in order to get to heaven. I answer that water baptism isn't necessary for salvation—think of the thief on the cross, Luke 23:43. But being baptized surely helps a Christian overcome the past.

Water baptism frees us from the bondages of our old way of life, Romans 6:3-14; Colossians 2:11-15; Isaiah 53:12; Gal. 3:27; 2:20; 5:24; 6:14 This was brought home to me one evening as I was watching people get baptized. The Lord opened my eyes, and I saw in the spirit. As people stepped into the baptismal font, I saw them chained, with steel collars around their necks, and wrist and ankle shackles. These believers were in bondage! But once each person was submerged in baptism and came up out of the water, the collars and shackles were broken. They were still there, but every one of them was broken. I asked the Lord how they could get rid of the collars and shackles completely. The Lord answered that as they walked in obedience to Christ every broken collar and shackle would fall off of them.

I am convinced that it helps a new believer tremendously to be water baptized as soon as possible after their salvation. Look at scripture, Paul says they are freed from the old way of life, Romans 6:3-14; Colossians 2:11-15. Similarly, it helps tremendously to teach new believers how to walk in obedience to Christ: to read the bible, to believe and practice what they read, to spend time in prayer with God every day, and to worship.

Also, PRAY FOR NEW BELIEVERS! The enemy doesn't want them to get baptized, and if they do get baptized, the enemy wants to keep those bondages on them. Pray for them, teach them, so that they can be free indeed, John 8:31-36.