

What Is the Process Leading to Baptism?

(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2019)

There is a process that leads individuals to the point of making a decision to be baptized. This process is described in a number of scriptures and some of these will be reviewed in this document.

It is important to bear in mind that God, our Father, initiates the process that leads a person to repentance, which is a prerequisite to being baptized.

...(you) not knowing that the goodness of God (the Father) leads you to repentance (Rom. 2:4; NKJV *throughout unless noted; Ed. notes in parentheses*).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (through Christ's sacrifice on our behalf), just as He (the Father) chose us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him (the Father) in love, having predestined us to adoption (away from the Adversary) as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself (the Father), according to the pleasure of His (the Father's) will (Eph.1:3-5; *Ed. notes in parentheses*).

Because God, our Father, loves all those He created, He has a plan to save them from the consequence of sin, which is everlasting death. As the first man, Adam, is responsible for introducing the consequence of sin to his descendants (1Tm. 2:14), God's law provides a way of reversing this death penalty for each generation that has proceeded from the time of Adam, and it is God who does this in a progressive manner with the ultimate goal that

none will perish (2Pet. 3:9), as far as everlasting life is concerned.

The fathers shall not be put to death for their children (sins of their children), nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers (sins of their fathers); a person shall be put to death for his own sin (Dt. 24:16; *Ed. notes in parentheses*).

In each generation, God the Father takes the initiative to call people and lead them to see that they are living contrary to His will as expressed in His law. Only He has this prerogative because He is the Originator of all life.

But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another (temporarily) for dishonor? (Rom. 9:20-21; *Ed. note in parentheses*).

Therefore, any decision to become baptized is only as the result of God, our Father, determining to call an individual as Christ said in John 6:44,65;

No one can come to me (Christ) unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day (at Christ's return) (Jn. 6:44 cf. 1Cor. 15:51-55; 1Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:4-6; *Ed. note in parentheses*).

And he (Christ) said, "Through this, I have spoken to you that no one is able to come toward me except it has been granted to him from the Father" (Jn. 6:65; RNT; *Ed. note in parentheses*).

More often than not God, our Father, calls individuals that are not regarded as being mighty in position or power.

For consider your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many well-born, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the insignificant things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen (to call), and the things which are not (valued by this world), to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His (the Father's) presence (1Cor. 1:26-29; *Ed. notes in parentheses*).

Once God, our Father, calls someone, He begins to reveal how they have been living contrary to His will, which is expressed in His law and, as a result, they are worthy of everlasting death.

For the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23).

...for all (human beings) have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23, *Ed. note in parenthesis*).

...The soul (living being) who sins shall die (Ezekiel 18:4 cf. 18:20; *Ed. Note in parenthesis*).

The question will then come up, "how can a sinner be forgiven and have an opportunity to inherit everlasting life?" The answer is,

And according to the law almost all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22).

...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23b).

By having everlasting death as the penalty for committing sin, God is stressing how seriously He views it. Not only does a sinner reap the consequences of breaking God's law and commandments, but others can suffer collateral

damage as a result of the wrong actions and deeds of the individuals who commit sinful acts.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like... (Gal. 5:19-21 cf. Rom. 1:18-32).



FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH...

Romans 6:23

Once the consequences of sin are understood, the question still remains, "how can a sinner be forgiven and have an opportunity to inherit everlasting life?"

Christ (through his death on behalf of sinners) has redeemed us from the curse of the law (everlasting death), having become a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" (Gal. 3:13; *Ed. notes in parentheses*).

Because God, our Father, and Jesus Christ love mankind and want to save them from their own wrong decisions, while still stressing the seriousness of sin, they both had to be willing to sacrifice. Therefore, The Father allowed His begotten son Jesus Christ to be sacrificed and the son agreed to become that sacrifice, as prefigured in the example of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22:1-12.

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends (Jn. 15:13).

Once the enormity and ramifications of an individual's sins are understood, they should have a deep desire to change (repent) and start living a new life in harmony with God's law (Rom. 6:4; 7:6). When one truly appreciates the

significance of sin, the next step that needs to be taken, is mentioned in the following scripture,

“Therefore let all the house of Israel (now both Gentile and Jew – Gal. 3:28) know assuredly that God (the Father) has made this Jesus, whom you (by your sins caused to be) crucified, both Lord and Christ.”³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart (repented), and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of sins; and (afterward) you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac. 2:36-38; *Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added*).

So, repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and the laying on of hands (Ac. 8:18; 19:6; Heb. 6:2) is the end result of a work that God, our Father, initiates by calling an individual to see the serious consequences of their sinful way of life.

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or changes, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved
(Copyright ©OneTruthOneLaw.com 2019)