

## **The 3 Baptisms**

*January 30, 2022*

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Baptizo (*Greek*) – a general word that means to immerse.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

1. The Holy Spirit **baptizes** us in Jesus.

This is the one baptism (Cf. Ephesians 4:4-5) to be saved. This happens when you confess Jesus is Lord and believe in the gospel—Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again three days later (Cf. Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

2. The disciple **baptizes** us with water.

Water baptism isn't required for salvation (Cf. Luke 23:39-43). Jesus does give a command to water baptize anyone who becomes his disciples though (Cf. John 14:15). Some churches sprinkle or pour water over the head, while others—like ours—immerse the whole body in water. We believe that the most biblical way (Cf. John 3:23; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38) to water baptize is through immersion of a believer who has put their faith in the gospel. We also practice this ordinance publicly to share with others in this testimony and recognize their identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

### **Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33**

3. Jesus **baptizes** us with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't required for salvation but is encouraged (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 14:1). This was promise Jesus would offer his disciples (Cf. John 16:7-14). For Old Testament believers the Holy Spirit would descend on certain people (Cf. Numbers 27:18; Judges 3:10; 1 Samuel 10:10; 16:14) but would then depart. It isn't until after Pentecost (Cf. Acts 2) that Spirit would remain on believers.

Jesus is the great example for us to follow in how these three baptisms work (Cf. Matthew 3:13-17). Jesus is already sinless and so does not need to be saved, he then is water baptized, and then the Holy Spirit descends on him.

Baptism #1 must happen first to become a disciple of Jesus, aka a Christian.

Baptisms #2 and #3 follow but not necessarily in that order.

Timeline in the early church of different baptisms:

Acts 1:4-5

Acts 2:37-41

Acts 8:12-17

Acts 10:37-38, 44-48

Acts 18:8

Acts 19:1-6

1 John 5:7-8

*7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit (baptism 3) and the water (baptism 2) and the blood (baptism 1); and these three agree.*