

There is one baptism Ephesians 4:5

There is one, and only one, Lord--there cannot be two. Also, *there is... one baptism* (Eph. 4:4-6). Does this refer to water baptism or Holy Spirit baptism?

In Scripture, one baptism was commanded and the other was promised. Jesus included water baptism in the gospel (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16). So, Peter commanded the Jews to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38), and he commanded the Gentiles to do the same (Acts 10:47-48). Baptism with the Holy Spirit was different. No one asked for it or was commanded to seek it. Jesus promised the apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit--a promise, not a command (Acts 1:4-5).

In Scripture, one baptism required man's request and the other required only God's decision. When sinners learned the gospel they requested water baptism. The Ethiopian learned about Jesus and immediately asked about water baptism (Acts 8:36). In Acts 2:41, 3,000 people responded to Peter's command by being baptized in water that day. Holy Spirit baptism was different. No one received it by request. The apostles did not know when they would receive it (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4). Cornelius' household did not request or expect this to happen (Acts 10:44). Holy Spirit baptism was always initiated by God, not by man's request.

Last, these two baptisms have different purposes and results. The purposes of water baptism match the purposes of Jesus' death: save (1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:2-3), wash (Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5), cleanse (Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 9:14), and the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28). Jesus' death is the power, not water, but the benefits of Jesus' death are given by faith at water baptism (Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12). The purpose of Holy Spirit baptism is identified by its results. When the apostles were baptized with the Spirit, it proved salvation was available (Acts 1:4-11; 2:12, 36-38). This baptism did not occur again until the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius, proving to the Jews that salvation was open to the Gentiles (Acts 11:15-18). Today, the Bible proves salvation is available, but sinners still need forgiveness. This proves that water baptism is the one baptism. Do you believe?

Basics of Water Baptism

Read the Bible to learn about the one baptism—water baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

1. **Jesus' blood washes us from sin in baptism** (Romans 6:3) In His death, Jesus offered His body and blood for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). We receive the benefits of His death when we are baptized into His death.
2. **Happens after belief** (Mark 16:16) God did not reveal "infant baptism." Faith in the working of God must precede baptism (Colossians 2:12).
3. **Means immersion** (Romans 6:4, *buried*) To be "baptized" by being sprinkled with water is like running by hopping. Running is not hopping, and baptism is not sprinkling. Baptism is a burial.
4. **In water** (Acts 8:38)
5. **For the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28) Compare these two verses. What phrase is found word-for-word in both verses?
6. **Adds us to the one body, one church** [the saved group] (1 Corinthians 12:13)
7. **Is a part of calling on the name of the Lord** (Acts 22:16) We cannot call upon the Lord for salvation by faith or words alone. It is not a mere verbal call--the call must include the one baptism.
8. **Saves us** (1 Peter 3:21) Have you been taught that baptism does not save us? Read Peter's words! Who do you believe?

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