

## **There Is One Baptism: *Holy Spirit or Water Baptism? (1)***

The Bible tells of several baptisms (of John Matt. 21:25, with the Holy Spirit Acts 1:4-5, in water Acts 10:47-48). Paul told the Ephesians *there is one baptism* (Eph. 4:5). So which baptism is the *one baptism*? Acts 19:1-5 shows Paul did not teach John's baptism, but what about the other two?

In Scripture, sinners were commanded to be baptized in water because that was the instruction of Jesus (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16). After convincing the Jews of their sin, Peter commanded and exhorted them to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). A few years later, Peter gave the same instructions to the Gentiles (Acts 10:47-48).

Baptism with the Holy Spirit was quite different. No one asked for and thereby received it or was commanded to seek it. Jesus promised that the apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit—a *promise* He would keep, not a command for them to keep (Acts 1:4-5). They waited in Jerusalem for the Spirit to come, having no idea when it would happen.

These two baptisms are very different and clearly cannot *both* be the "one baptism." We'll continue this study next week (or contact us for a free audio CD on this subject).