

There Is One Baptism: *Holy Spirit or Water Baptism? (3)*

Is the *one baptism* water or Spirit baptism (Eph. 4:5)? Note the different purpose and results of these two baptisms.

The purpose of water baptism and Jesus' blood are stated in the same ways: save (1 Pet. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:2-3), wash (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5), cleanse (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 9:14), and the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Matt. 26:28). Jesus' blood is the power, not water. Access into the benefits of Jesus' blood is given by faith at water baptism (Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12).

The purpose of Holy Spirit baptism is identified by its results. When the apostles were baptized with the Spirit, as Jesus promised, it proved salvation in Christ was available (Acts 1:4-11; 2:12, 36-38). This baptism did not occur again until the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius (while water baptism persisted). Peter cited the uniqueness of those events to convince the Jews that salvation in Christ was open to the Gentiles (Acts 11:15-18). Spirit baptism proved that Christ's salvation was offered to sinners. This record is our evidence.

Today, we do not need ongoing miracles to know salvation is open to all, but sinners still need to be saved. Thus, water baptism is the *one baptism*. Send us comments or questions.