

The Presence of God in Baptism

John the Baptist

*"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you **with the Holy Spirit** and fire. (Matthew 3:11)*

*And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending** like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)*

The Cross Baptism

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, (Mark 10:38-39)

The Continued Work of Jesus, by the Spirit

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. (Acts 1:1-2)

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5)

Baptism in Acts - A Response to Believing the the Cross Baptism by the Spirit

*But when **they believed Philip as he preached good news** about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.(Acts 8:12)*

*Then Philip opened his mouth, **and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news** about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:35-38)*

*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened **her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul**. And after she was baptized, and her household as well. (Acts 16:14-15)*

Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." **And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.** And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. (Acts 16:30-33)

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed in the Lord**, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8)

Baptism with Water as A Response to Baptism with the Spirit

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (Acts 10:44-48)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV)

Our Union (by the Spirit) with Christ Pictured in Baptism

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who **died to sin** still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? We were buried therefore with him **by baptism into death**, in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.** (Romans 6:1-14)