

Introduction:

1. Have you received the one baptism Paul speaks of in Ephesians 4:5? How might some answer this question? What is the one baptism? There is much confusion regarding baptism.
2. My hope is that this sermon will strengthen the faith of those who have received the one baptism, and to give more clarity for those who are confused, and to encourage us to continue to stand for truth.

The Lesson:

I. The word “baptism” in the text.

- A. The Biblical definition of baptism means immersion, submersion. This term was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment, or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another (Vine’s Dictionary).
- B. In Acts 19:1-6, we find saints in Ephesus being baptized. Let’s make some observations.

II. The conversion of the Ephesians

- A. In his third missionary journey, Paul came across some disciples in Ephesus.
 1. His conversation was interesting. A great point needs to be made here: Let’s have more spiritual conversations. Let’s ask people questions. It’s a way to learn and grow.
 2. What do we see in this conversation?
 - a. **Verse 1:** These were people who believed in Jesus. They were called disciples.
 - b. **Verse 2:** Paul asked them a question about the Holy Spirit. They said No. Paul was asking about them receiving Spiritual gifts. How can we know? Because in Verse 6 they are going to receive power by the Holy Spirit through the laying on of Paul’s hands.
 - c. **Verse 3:** Paul asked into what they were baptized, or what baptism they had received? They had received John’s baptism. They were referring to John the Baptist. John was foretold by the prophets as he would lead the way for the Messiah, Mark 1:1-4. His baptism was for repentance and for the forgiveness of sins. John eventually died. Paul says something else interesting.
 - d. **Verse 4:** Paul explained John’s baptism. Yet by what Paul says, there’s an understanding that the people knew John’s baptism was now obsolete. How do we know?
 - e. **Verse 5:** They were baptized again! Notice the change of this baptism. It was by the authority of Jesus or in His name.
- B. This brief background of the Ephesians conversions help us to understand the one baptism.

III. Which baptism is necessary?

- A. When you study the New Testament, there are several baptisms one can read about.
 1. This conversion story helps us to see which is the ONE BAPTISM for all people.

2. ***It's not John's Baptism.***
 - a. That doesn't mean John was wrong. He wasn't. His was authorized by God, Luke 7:29-30. To reject John's baptism was to reject the counsel of God.
 - b. But his baptism and ministry was all about preparing the way for the Messiah.
3. ***It's not the Baptism Jesus received.***
 - a. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.
 - b. But He wasn't baptized for the forgiveness of sins. He was SINLESS.
 - c. Rather scripture tell us why He was, Matthew 3:13-17. It was to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus gives us an example that He always did the will of God, John 4:34. When the Father spoke and the Spirit descended as a dove, they bore witness to who Jesus is.
 - d. John 1:29-34. It was to fulfill all righteousness. It was to manifest (reveal Himself to Israel. It was a sign for John!
 - e. It's also not the baptism Jesus spoke about in Luke 12:50. He seemed to be speaking about His suffering He would endure.
4. ***It's not baptism by fire.*** This language is found in Matthew 3:11.
 - a. John said Jesus had the ability to baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Fire is often indicative of judgment. Jesus has all authority and has the right to pronounce judgment on others.
5. ***It's not Holy Spirit Baptism.***
 - a. In Acts 10:44-45, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the household of Cornelius.
 - b. They began to speak in tongues. This was a sign for Peter and the Jews of how Gentiles could be a part of God's kingdom.
 - c. Therefore Peter said, "Can anyone refuse the water for them to be baptized...? Then they were ordered to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

B. There's only one other answer of what the one baptism is. We've seen the clues in these verses.

IV. The one baptism is in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of sins.

- A. Let's consider a few observations.
 1. The baptism the Ephesians received in Acts 19:1-6 was administered by Paul.
 2. The one baptism today for people must be administered by a person. This fits with what Jesus told His apostles to do, Matthew 28:19-20.
 3. The one baptism is an immersion in water. John's baptism was done where there was much water, John 3:23. Why? Because baptism is a burial in water. Notice in Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus came up out of the water. This one baptism is conducted where there is much water, Acts 8:38.
 4. This one baptism is for people who have heard the message of truth and believed, Ephesians 1:13. It doesn't come prior to hearing. Notice Paul said, "after listening to the message." This means infant baptism is wrong, deceiving, not necessary, and invalid.

5. This one baptism is for those dead in their trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1-5. It's how one can be made alive (or born again)! It's great news!
6. This one baptism is how one accesses the grace of God, Ephesians 2:8-10.
7. This one baptism is how one is redeemed from their sins, Ephesians 1:7. It's how one obtains forgiveness of sins.
8. This one baptism is how one is clothed with Christ, Galatians 3:26-27.
9. This one baptism is where God works on man and removes his sins, Colossians 2:12.