

# Baptism

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by Bill Crews

## Some Things We Do **Not** Believe About Baptism

1. That baptism can be administered by sprinkling or pouring of water upon a person.
2. That infants need to be baptized or that infant baptism is acceptable to God.
3. That baptism is a “Sacrament” (“an outward sign, instituted by Christ to give grace” — *The Baltimore Catechism* No. 2., p. 39; “a sacrament is not fulfilled by the fact that one believes in it, but by the fact that it is made”— *A Catholic Dictionary*, p. 441).
4. That baptism **alone** will benefit or save anyone.
5. That water can wash away or take away sins.
6. That the validity of baptism depends upon *who* administers it.
7. That the validity of baptism depends upon whether or not *the right formula* is spoken at the time one is baptized.
8. That anyone is justified, pardoned, forgiven or saved before he is baptized.
9. That baptism is a symbol of one’s having been already forgiven or saved (or that baptism is “an outward sign of an inward grace”).
10. That baptism is a symbol of one’s dedication or commitment to do the will of God.
11. That baptism in the Holy Spirit was ever commanded by God or administered by any man.
12. That baptism in the Holy Spirit is available to anyone today.

## Some Things We **Do** Believe About Baptism

1. That baptism is administered by immersing one in water (Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38; 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12).
2. That only accountable people who are lost in sin and desire salvation can be acceptably baptized (Acts 2:36-38; 8:35-38).
3. That baptism is a command of Christ (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 10:48).
4. That baptism must be *preceded* by hearing the gospel of Christ, believing in Christ, repenting of one’s sins, and confessing Christ as God’s Son (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38, 41; 8:35-38; 18:8) or it avails nothing.
5. That God through the sacrifice of His Son takes away our sins (forgives us, saves us), but **not** until we are baptized in water as He commands (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21).
6. That the validity of baptism depends upon the understanding, faith and obedience of the one baptized (Acts 19:1-5).
7. That one is justified, pardoned, forgiven when he is baptized and not until he is baptized. Baptism is essential to discipleship (Matthew 28:19), to salvation (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21), to the washing away of sins (Acts 22:16), to entering Christ (Galatians 3:26-27), to entering the death of Christ and our death to sin (Romans 6:3-4), to entering the spiritual body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2:47).
8. That baptism is, *in a figure*, a burial and a resurrection and is *likened* to the burial and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12; 3:1).
9. That baptism is a “*true likeness*,” “*the like figure*,” “*the antitype*” of the salvation of the eight souls in the ark by water (1 Peter 3:20-21).
10. That baptism brings the beginning of a new life in Christ as a new creature (Romans 6).
11. That baptism in the Holy Spirit was promised to some in the first century (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4-5; John 14:25-26; 16:12-13), and administered by God directly from heaven (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 11:15-16). No man ever baptized anyone in the Holy Spirit.
12. That baptism in the Holy Spirit was limited to a few in the first century and confined to the New Testament period of miracles (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

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