

*Sabbatism!*TM

A summary of commonly-held teachings of the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God

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Repentance and Baptism

One of the most common doubts expressed by persons contemplating the acceptance of Christ is, "I don't know if I'm READY for baptism."

This is a good question to ask. But any answer to this question should NOT imply that a person has to *achieve* some level of improvement or that he has to meet some kind of *minimum requirements*. Some ministers tell people that they must prove themselves *worthy* of baptism by being able to give up cigarettes or some other vice. None of your actions have anything to do with determining whether or not you are READY for baptism. **Grace is a gift.** You can't *earn* the right to eternal life by *proving* yourself in the eyes of another person.

Here is how you determine whether or not you are ready for baptism. Ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Do you believe that Jesus was resurrected and that He lives today?
- 2) Do you believe that He is Lord?
- 3) Are you willing to obey Him?

If you answer "yes" to all of the above, **you are READY for baptism!** Let's see if we can now help you better understand what baptism is all about.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

Questions about Repentance and Baptism

1) In Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, what formula did he preach for baptism? Acts 2:38.

2) What three things did Peter say would happen in his formula?

3) Now that we know the three parts of Peter's sermon, what does the Bible say about earning salvation? Ephesians 2:8-9.

4) Baptism forgives you of your sins. Have you sinned? I John 1:8.

5) What is the Bible definition of sin? I John 3:4.

6) After baptism, you will receive not only the promise of eternal life, but you will receive a special, new relationship with Christ. What is that new relationship? Romans 8:17.

7) What does the Bible say about being truly sorry for your sins? II Corinthians 7:9 and Isaiah 1:16.

8) Is it important to count the cost of baptism? Luke 14:26.

9) After coming out of the water, is there another act which must be performed? II Timothy 1:6.

10) After the laying on of hands, what do you receive? John 16:7.

11) How does the Holy Spirit affect your life after baptism? Galatians 5:16.

12) Do the angels have a role to play during your baptism? Luke 15:7,10.

13) The Bible says that you can choose either the world's reward or God's reward. What are those two rewards? Romans 6:23.

Further Thoughts

Baptism comes from the Greek work *baptizo*, which means *immerse*. To be baptized in the biblical manner, you must be fully immersed in water. When talking about baptism in the New Testament, the apostles used the word *baptizo*. They did not use the word *cheo* which means *to pour*. They did not use the word *rantidzo* which means *to sprinkle*. The reason we are **completely immersed** in water at baptism is because baptism symbolizes the death and burial of our old, sinful selves. To be baptized is to bury one's carnal self in a watery grave. Colossians 2:12.

**ΣΩΦ ROOTS—
IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME.**

BAPTIZO— THIS GREEK WORD MEANS "IMMERSE" AND IS THE WORD TRANSLATED "BAPTISM."

CHEO— THIS GREEK WORD MEANS "TO POUR."

RANTIDZO— THIS GREEK WORD MEANS "TO SPRINKLE."

Baptism did not begin with Peter's sermon in Acts. Christian baptism was prefigured by the Israelites when they passed through the Red Sea (I Corinthians 10:1-2).

Before Jesus' crucifixion, He instructed His disciples to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16.

Even though Jesus lived a perfect life and was totally without sin (I Peter 2:22), He was baptized! We read this in Matthew 3:16. Jesus knew the importance of setting an example for us to follow. "...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." I Peter 2:21.

When we come out of the water at baptism, this is symbolic of our being resurrected into eternal life. "Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Romans 6:3-5.

In Jesus' Name!

We must be baptized in the name of Jesus or our baptisms are worthless. When you are baptized, you are not baptized into a church or into a denomination. Just before you are baptized, you will be asked if you have repented of your sins. If you answer "yes," you will be told, "John Smith, as a result of the repentance of your sins and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, I baptize you into the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit for the remission of your sins."

May God continue to guide you as you seek eternal life through Jesus Christ!

⌘⌘⌘ *ChainLink* - Hebrews 6:2; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:28; Acts 2:38 ⌘⌘⌘