

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 28

BAPTISED IN THE NAME OF ...

The statement was made that baptism is not 'real baptism' until it was done only in the name of Jesus.

*"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

*Acts 2:38,39*

- People in need of salvation have a simple route to peace with God
- People should repent and then be baptised
- As a result the Holy Spirit will be given
- God is the one who does the calling

*"Therefore God exalted him (Jesus) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."*

*Philippians 2:9-13*

- God held Jesus in highest regard. He is to be worshipped
- Our salvation is a result of God at work in us

*"Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days."*

*Acts 2:34-38*

- A key word in this passage is 'you know...' The people had been taught certain basics
- God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are at the heart of this teaching

- The Holy Spirit has already been received in this case
- Peter recognised that God, through the Holy Spirit, had confirmed that the people should be baptised
- Even though the baptism is 'in the name of Jesus' God and the Holy Spirit are intimately involved?
- Does this say something special about the relationship between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

*“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus.” When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them..”*

*Acts 19:1-6*

- Paul often used questions to find out what people thought. He does not condemn people or cause them any upset.
- On hearing that some people had become believers he wanted to know if they had received the Holy Spirit.
- These people had been baptised.
- Paul now takes the believers on to a knowledge of Jesus and re-baptised them—and they then received the Spirit.
- Would this approach be something that lifts people to a closer walk with God?

*“ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”*

*Matthew 28:19,20*

- The central point here is that discipleship is at the core of Christian growth
- The baptism here is in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
- Teaching precedes baptism. People will know about Jesus and his death on the cross as well as the nature of sin
- The verses remind us that Jesus will be with us to the very end of the age
- The Gospel of Matthew is focussed on Jewish people in the time of the Apostles
- Why are God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Gospel?
- The Seventh-day Adventist Church has chosen to follow a baptism formula given to us by Jesus. As we do this we are emphasising to all who are present at the baptism who is at the heart of the ceremony. Baptism in Jesus as used elsewhere in the New Testament, we recognise, was always performed with evident activity of God and the Holy Spirit

When people criticise you note how Paul suggested we deal with criticism, “Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day..... Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 2:16 and 3:1