



In this study the meaning of the concept of baptism in the New Testament is examined, as a sequel to the study: Baptism - word study.¹

Water baptism or immersion in water.

Water baptism illustrates conversion² and discipleship³.

It is the baptismal candidate's public confession that he/she wishes to live as a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, under His dominion and authority.⁴

In view of the meaning of the Greek word '**baptizo**', at his/her baptism the baptismal candidate is:

- **immersed in water**,
- with the underlying thought that he/she **remains immersed**.

This is the image of complete release from life as it was prior to conversion, by dying with Jesus.

Paul writes about baptism (immersion):

- *We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*
- *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized **into (eis: into⁵) Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?***
- *We were therefore buried with him (Jesus) through **baptism (immersion) into (eis) death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** (Romans 6:2-4)*

As someone went to Jesus to receive forgiveness of sins and to lay his/her future in His hands⁶, he/she **goes to** the water of baptism.

Being **immersed** is dying to the life led prior to conversion.

The **old life** has to die completely, and **remain immersed** in that sense.

Whoever dies with Jesus will also **rise** with Him (come out of the water) **as a new creation**, with a different way of life, in accordance with the teaching of Jesus.

Coming up again out of the water also signifies therefore:

- *... just as **Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** (Romans 6:4)*

For:

- *Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)*

1 Study: Baptism – word study.

2 Study: Conversion.

3 Study: Discipleship (1).

4 Study: Discipleship (2).

5 Study: Word study of the little Greek words epi, en, eis.

6 Study: Believing in Jesus Christ.



- ... for all of you who were baptized into Christ **have clothed yourselves with Christ.**
(Galatians 3:27)

Whoever has become a new creation is placed before the tremendous challenge of radiating Jesus Christ in the world in word and deed.

He/she will have to discover what is expected from him/her in the new life, in God's Kingdom.

The Bible is the only handbook in this respect, to discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how He meant life in fellowship with Him to be.

The baptism in the Spirit or immersion in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said of immersion in the Holy Spirit:

- *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed with power** from on high. (Luke 24:49)*
(**clothed** - literally: to enter into – to sink into a piece of clothing)
(**a more literal translation:** ... until you are sunk, or have entered into the power from heaven)
- *John **baptised with (immersed in) water**, but in a few days you will be baptized **with the Holy Spirit (immersed in the Holy Spirit)**. (Acts 1:5)*
- ***You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you ... (Acts 1:8)***

A disciple of Jesus is **clothed** with divine **power** from heaven by **immersion in the Holy Spirit**, or, expressed otherwise, when the Holy Spirit comes **on** him/her.

Here too the meaning is that the disciple **remains immersed**, i.e. that he/she **lives** in the power of the Holy Spirit and **always remains clothed** with this power.

A daily point of interest.

See also the studies:

- Baptism - in the New Testament.⁷
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit.⁸
- Entering into the Kingdom of God.⁹
- The Armour of God.¹⁰

7 Study: Baptism in the New Testament.

8 Study: The baptism in the Holy Spirit.

9 Study: John 3:3-5 - Conversion and discipleship.

10 Study: The Armour of God.