

GREATEST LOVE CHURCH

FOUNDATION SCHOOL

CLASS 3

BAPTISMS



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“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of BAPTISMS, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” Hebrews6:1-3

What is Baptism?

The **word "Baptism"** is a transliteration of the Greek **word BAPTIZO** which means to immerse. In Hebrew it is referred to as a MIKVEH - an immersion. James W. Dale's work on Baptism, *Classic Baptism, Johannic Baptism, and Judaic Baptism*, suggested the following as a definition: “...whatever is capable of thoroughly changing the character, state, or condition of any object, is capable of baptizing that object:

Putting these definitions together, we can simply say that Baptism is immersion in something which totally changes the character of the immersed.

The bible gives us an equation of salvation in Mark16:116 & Acts2:38

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

SALVATION = FAITH + BAPTISM.

This tells us how important baptism is. According to our base scripture in Hebrews 6, baptism is in the plural, and so we can say there are different types of baptisms but we will only talk about three types of baptisms namely: John’s baptism (water baptism), baptism into Christ, and Holy Ghost Baptism. Acts19:1-6, Acts10: 44-48

The Apostle Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus about the type of baptism they had, and they, like many Christians today, said they only knew about the John’s or water

baptism. Paul, enlightened them about being baptized into Christ (born again), and holy ghost baptism. The house of Cornelius, after hearing the word of God experienced the baptisms.

Baptism into Christ: This is immersion into Christ, where you not only answer an altar call, but you are born of the water which is, the word of God. John3:3-5

Water baptism: This is an outward sign of inward grace, identifying with the death and resurrection of Christ. When you go into water, it's a sign that you died with Jesus, and your old nature is dead and buried, and when you come out, you identify with the resurrection of Jesus. It means you are a new creature, old things have passed away and all things have become new. Jesus himself got baptized and he said he did it to **fulfil all righteousness. Mathew3:15**

Holy Ghost Baptism: When you become born-again, you receive the God head into your life which includes the Holy Spirit, but Holy **Ghost Baptism** is immersion into the holy Ghost which happens in any way that God deems fit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is a spiritual language of the spirit going either **vertical** or **horizontal**, vertical being you and God, and horizontal being you, and the church. When you speak in tongues, your spirit is either talking to God and receiving from God, or receiving from God and talking to the church. The former, edifies you, and the later edifies the church. (1Cor.14:2-4). The former is a sign that follows them that believe, but a sign to those who do not believe. The later, a sign that follows those that believe, and a sign to the believers and unbelievers. (1Cor.14:22-25, Mark16:17). This was the mystery of the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), when tongues of fire descended on every believer present, and for the first time, the unbelievers saw a sign following them that believe.

The greatest controversies of speaking in tongues

Many say speaking in tongues is not for every believer, but the response of Peter to the reaction of the unbelievers disagrees with that opinion. Acts2:38&39

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

The gift of the holy Spirit is for every believer.

The Benefits of Speaking in tongues are edification and strength. 1Cor.12:2&4, Jude1:20, and Rom.8:26