

WATER BAPTISM (Outline)

“Baptize” is not actually an English word, but a Greek word written in letters of the English alphabet.

Acts 8:26-38: “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³²The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”

What are the requirements of those desiring baptism?

1. Repentance: Repentance is a change of mind that results in an outward turning around to face and move in a completely new direction (Acts 2:38; 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9).
2. Faith: Faith is a response to something God has done. The Gospel is responded to by faith in believing Christ died for our sins, was buried, and arose again that we might be declared righteous (1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Romans 4:25). This results in confessing Jesus is the Lord of our lives, and committing ourselves to Him as our only means of salvation (Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 1:21; Mark 16:15-16).

These requirements for baptism automatically rule out one class of persons, that is, infants. By this very nature, an infant cannot repent and cannot believe. Therefore, an infant cannot be eligible for baptism. Water baptism is a decision to forsake one’s own way for the way of Jesus Christ. The ceremony was the natural conclusion to the conversion (turning to God) experience.