

# The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

## Introduction

In the book of Acts when people were, for the first time, coming under conviction that they were lost and that there was a way they could be saved, cried out to Peter: “What must we do?” Peter had told them the gospel story much like you have been learning through these lessons. After Peter says that you must repent, then he tells them that they must be baptized before they can be forgiven.

## Lesson Seven: Baptism

### **Read Acts 2:38:**

*“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

1. What is baptism? It comes from the word βαπτίζω and it means to immerse or submerge something under water. What is baptism a symbol of?
  - a. Read Romans 6:1-3: *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who \_\_\_\_\_ to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ were \_\_\_\_\_ into His death?”*
  - b. Remember from {lesson two} we discovered that Jesus paid my penalty of death for me, but here we see that God uses baptism as a ceremony declaring that my debt of death to the law has been satisfied. God sees my ceremonial death at baptism as a profession of faith that Christ died in my place.
  - c. In the above text Paul also says that Baptism is a dying to sin what does he mean by that?  
**Read and discuss** the following quote:  
*There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether You must experience a death to self and must live unto God..... Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever.”*  
*Maranatha, chapter 50*
  - d. Baptism is not only a profession of Christ dying for my sin, but it is also a dying to sin, meaning, my old self, my old ways, my old sins are going to be left behind in the watery grave.
  - e. Read: 1 Corinthians 15:31: *“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die \_\_\_\_\_.”*
    - i. What does Paul mean by I die daily? {For many Christians they believe that after they are baptized there is nothing else to worry about. They believe that you can continue life as it was, but here Paul says that He dies every day.

That does not mean that he was baptized every day. It just means that he continues living the life of a new man every day and keeps the old man dead!}}

2. What does Jesus teach about the importance of baptism? Can you be saved without it?
  - a. Read John 3:3-5: *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he \_\_\_\_\_ see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he \_\_\_\_\_ enter into the kingdom of God.”*
  - b. Jesus told Nicodemus that being baptized was more than just going into water, but it was also being reborn into the spirit. What does that mean?
    - i. Read John 3:6-8: *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be \_\_\_\_\_ again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.”*
    - ii. The word for born is γεννάω and it means to be born like at childbirth, but it can also be used to mean regeneration. Obviously, it is a perfect word to describe what happens at baptism. As we die in Christ we are reborn into Christ or regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Regeneration is the work of God through the Holy Spirit coming into our lives and beginning the process of making us like Jesus.
  - c. When we are raised up out of the water and are reborn in the Spirit how does God see us?
    - i. Read Colossians 2:11-13: *“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in \_\_\_\_\_, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made \_\_\_\_\_ together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”*
      1. Until we are baptized, even if we believe in Jesus, we are still considered dead. It is not until we are baptized that God sees us as alive, and then He forgives us of our sins.
3. When are we considered in Jesus for salvation?
  - a. Read Galatians 3:26-27: *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.”*
    - i. To put on Christ means that God sees us as His legal children, and before the law of God in the judgment we are, by faith, seen as Christ is seen. This is why Paul says in Romans 8:1 that *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”* We are not seen as dead men still in our old lives, but now after baptism we are seen as alive in Christ, forever protected from the condemnation of death that the law required of the old self.

- b. Read Matthew 9:17. How does this teaching relate to baptism?
  - i. Are you an old wineskin or a new wineskin?
- 4. One final thought. After one has been baptized they can truly claim that they are justified by faith (lesson three).
  - a. Read Acts 13:38-39 *“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is \_\_\_\_\_ from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*
  - b. According to Acts 2:38, our opening text, the forgiveness of sins does not happen until after baptism. Therefore, after baptism must be when we are justified by faith.

**Summary:**

After we have heard the gospel and understand that we have a need to be saved, and have a desire to be forgiven, saved, and live a new Spirit-filled life that will begin to resemble the life of Jesus, then we should be baptized. Baptism is not a magical rite that in and of itself saves us, rather, it is a ceremony that gives us a public opportunity to confess our faith in Jesus and a proclamation that the old you is dead, and you have been reborn!

**Appeal:** *Is it your desire to be baptized (or rebaptized) today?*