

## GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

17. What example of mutual help is provided in the story of the early church?

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.” Acts 2: 44, 45.

18. What thought should the more prosperous churches have for the weaker ones?

a. Material help. “Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea.” Acts 11: 29.

b. Spiritual help. “Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.” Acts 11: 22.

19. How will the world be influenced by a church united in fellowship and love?

“That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me.” John 17: 21. (See also verse 23.)

A Hindu complained to Dr. Stanley Jones: “If you Christians had lived more like Jesus Christ, the process of conversion would have gone on much more rapidly.” – “The Christ of the Indian Road,” page 142.

### Is Baptism Essential?

1. BY what ordinance did Jesus ordain that believers should be received into the church of God?

“Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19.

2. By whom was this ordinance carried out in an anticipatory way?

“John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” Acts 19:4.

3. On what occasion did the apostles first carry out the Lord’s instruction?

“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 you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2: 38.

4. What response did Peter’s appeal evoke?

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Acts 2: 41.

5. How did Philip receive the Samaritan believers into the church?

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8: 12.

6. What appeal did Ananias make to Saul?

“And now why tarries thou? Arise, and be baptized.” Acts 22: 16.

7. In what way did Paul in turn receive believers into the church?

“And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” Acts 18: 8.

8. What personal example did Jesus set in respect of baptism?

“Then comes Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.” Matthew 3: 13.

9. Why did John hesitate to baptize Jesus?

“But John forbade Him, saying, I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comes Thou to me?” Matthew 3: 14.

10. How was he reassured?

“And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered Him.” Matthew 3:15.

11. What are the essential spiritual preliminaries to baptism?

a. Confession of sin. “Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.” Matthew 3:5,6. (See also Mark 1:5.)

b. Affirmation of faith in Christ. “And Philip said, If thou believe with all your heart, thou may [be baptized]. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts 8: 37.

12. What stages of experience does the symbolic act represent?

a. Burial of the old life with Christ. “Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?” Romans 6: 3.

b. Washing away of sin. “And now why tarry thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Acts 22: 16.

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c. Regeneration. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3: 5.

"As Christ entered upon a new life at His resurrection, so the new life of the Christian properly commences at baptism." - "Biblical Institutes," page 289.

13. What is the only form of baptism which can truly symbolize this radical spiritual change)

"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Acts 8:38.

John Wesley comments on Romans 6:4 as follows: "Buried with Him, alluding to the ancient practice of baptizing by immersion." - "Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament!"

John Calvin taught: "The very word 'baptize' however, signifies to immerse; and it is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church." - "Institutes of the Christian Religion!"

Martin Luther wrote: "Baptism is a Greek word; in Latin it can be translated immersion, as when we plunge something into water that it may be completely covered with water." - Baptist Encyclopedia, article, "Baptism."

"For the first thirteen centuries the almost universal practice of baptism was that of which we read in the New Testament, and which is the very meaning of the word 'baptize' - that those who were baptized were plunged, submerged, immersed, into the water." -Dean A. P. Stanley in "Christian Institutions."

14. Where was John accustomed to baptize his converts?

"And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of- Jordan, confessing their sins." Mark 1:5.

15. Why did he particularly like the district of Aenon?

"And John also was baptizing in Aenon, near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized." John 3:23.

16. By what is the symbolic act of baptism made efficacious?

a. Christ's resurrection power. "The like figure whereunto even baptism does also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3: 21.

b. The believer's faith in Him. "Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2: 12.

17. How will the transformation symbolized by baptism be manifest in the life of the baptized believer?

"That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection." Romans 6: 4, 5.

"The vows which we take upon ourselves in baptism embrace much. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we are buried in the likeness of Christ's death, and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, and we are to live a new life. Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ. Henceforth the believer is to bear in mind that he is dedicated to God, to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit. He has died to the world. He is to live to the Lord, to use for Him all his entrusted capabilities, never losing the realization that he bears God's signature, that he is a subject of Christ's kingdom, a partaker of the divine nature. He is to surrender to God all that he has, employing all his gifts to His name's glory." - E. G. White.

18. In view of its spiritual significance, how important is baptism?

"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16: 16.

19. Without the experience which baptism symbolizes, what must be our fate?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3: 5.

### A Lesson In Humility

1. WHAT sinful feelings possessed the hearts of the disciples as they sat at the last Passover supper?

"And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest." Luke 22: 24.

2. Reading their thoughts, what silent lesson did Jesus begin to teach them?

"He rises from supper, and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself. After