



**Fellowship of Christian Firefighters
International**

Ministering to First Responders Since 1977

Bible Lessons – Commands of Christ

5-20-2020

Baptize My Disciples

Subject: Baptize
 Instructional Setting: Relaxed quiet atmosphere
 Number of Students: As many as the facility will accommodate
 Time: As long as needed to ensure understanding

Objective:	Bible References:
For Christian firefighters and first responders to be equipped to understand the command to baptize believers.	<p><u>Primary</u> Matthew 28:19</p> <p><u>Additional</u> Luke 3:16 Acts 15 Romans 4</p>

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Theme: Baptizing Disciples

Life Principle: Baptism is an outward expression of your inward condition

Translation: NKJV

Introduction: Baptism by Fire

The event was called baptism by fire by most of the firefighters in Washington, DC. The mayor appointed a new chief for the fire department, and he hadn't even unpacked all of his boxes in his new office before the big ones came in. There was a series of three major fires within a span of three days. The first started with a young child dying in a house fire. Several firefighters were injured trying to save the child and almost all the residence were injured as well. Then a huge three alarm fire that burned down the beloved farmers market. This ornate brick structure had been revered for generations. I have been assigned to companies that used to go and get the fresh made doughnuts each Saturday. Then as units were finishing up that fire another three-alarm fire in a historic building in Upper Northwest. The library housed many priceless artifacts from the District and now it was engulfed in flames. All the firefighters looked to the new chief to see what kind of leader he was. The news reported was the first to use the term "baptism by fire" in describing the new chief and it just stuck with all the personnel.

What about our faith. What does the Bible have to say about baptism and what does that have to do with today's firefighters and first responders?

Color Code

Orange – People and pronouns

Blue – Time and chronology

Green – Places

Brown – Events

Red – Reoccurring words or themes

Purple – Main idea, keywords, or running concepts

Definition:

Baptism is an outward act symbolizing what God has done on the inside of you through Jesus Christ. The term baptism generally means to dip or to immerse. While there are examples of baptism in both the Old Testament and New Testament the term now symbolizes a person who has died, been buried, and risen with Christ.

Lesson – Baptize

The Command

Matthew 28:19 – *“Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the **nations**, baptizing **them** in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,”*

- The command is simple, make disciples and baptize them. Even though the command may be simple there are still many firefighters and first responders who have not been obedient in fulfilling this task.

Digging Deeper

- First, we note that Jesus gave us an example to follow. Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan river at the beginning of his ministry (Matthew 3:13-17). **Note** two interesting facts in the story. Jesus was submersed in water as verse 16 says “Jesus came up immediately from the water.” Also, God the Father was “well pleased” with Jesus after His baptism.
- The Greek word used for baptism is “baptidzo” which means “to dip” or “to immerse.”
- The entire passage to be looked at is Matthew 28:18-20. In this passage the disciples are encouraged to go into all the world and “make disciples.” Without hesitation the disciples are encouraged to baptize those who become believers. Baptism is not part of salvation and it is not something to be put off either. Jesus expected His disciples to witness to people around the world and to ensure they are obedient to baptism.
- So why is baptism so important to the Christian faith? Baptism is a public confession of your faith and signifies to those watching your commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Jesus commanded His disciple to baptize these new disciples “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” signifying that this observance is a Christian baptism.
- When a person is immersed in water it symbolizes Christ’s death and burial, and when they come up out of the water it symbolizes Christ’s resurrection. The water can also represent the washing away of a person’s sins.
- The Jews of the time would be familiar with baptism, this was not a new concept. The Jews would use water to ceremonial cleanse people; the ritual for cleansing lepers in Leviticus 14, bodily discharges in Leviticus 15, the priests after sacrificing in Leviticus 16 and Numbers 19:1-22.

Note: Gentiles who wanted to convert to Judaism would have to do several things, one of which was baptism. There is no debate about the need for circumcision, but baptism is debated. Several rabbinical schools of Jesus day taught the importance of baptizing a Gentile as a way of spiritual cleansing and to show their desire to start a new life. (Information gathered from jewsforjesus.org)

- Baptism is one of two ordinances of the church, the other is the Lord’s Supper.
- Baptism is not required for salvation. The thief on the cross did not have time to get baptized yet Jesus said “today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). For a more in-depth study read Acts 15 and Romans 4.
- A believer getting baptized should not be confused with Spirit Baptism. John the Baptist predicted Spirit Baptism in Luke 3:16. *“John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* Paul also talked about the baptism of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12:13. *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*

Other Verses

Romans 6:4 – *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Ephesians 4:5 – *“one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”*

Romans 6:3-4 – *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Colossians 2:12 – *“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

Application for First Responders:

Firefighters and first responders need to be obedient to the Biblical principle of baptism. If you have been saved and not baptized why?

Discussion Questions:

- What is one reason why firefighters and first responders do not get baptized?
- Should a person be immersed?
- Does a firefighter have to be baptized in a church?

Bible Memorization:

Colossians 2:12 – *“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

Prayer Requests:

That firefighters and first responders would learn the truth about baptism.