

LESSON NO. 12

DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP
LESSONS FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

TYPES OF
BAPTISM

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LESSON NO. 12

TYPES OF BAPTISM

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Biblical Basis: John 3:13-16
Text to memorize: Acts 8:38

PURPOSE

To present the 3 types of baptisms that the Church of the Nazarene contemplates, depending on its circumstances or contexts.

REAL LIFE STORY

It was Easter Sunday, the previous Saturday baptisms had been carried out on the coasts of the Yucatan peninsula, but now they would be done in the temple. I had witnessed many moments like this in my life, but now other questions were popping into my mind; Would they bring an inflatable pool to the temple to baptize? Because unlike other temples, this one did not have a baptistery in its facilities, if not, how would they celebrate this beautiful sacrament?

The Pastor took his place, called those who would be baptized that special Sunday and they passed by; 2 more brothers brought a table with a beautiful dish full of water and some small towels. Thus, the Pastor began the direction of the baptism ceremony, when he finished reading his manual, he began to pour water on the head of each one of them, making use of the baptismal formula, after calling them by their name, he told them; "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen".

This time the disciple was not immersed in the water, but rather sprinkled with the water the Pastor poured over his head. Until that moment I could only remember seeing people go to the river or the sea to be baptized by immersion, now I had witnessed in a different way and that led me to ask myself; Is this other form of baptism valid? How many types of baptism are there according to the Bible?

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

As we saw in the previous lesson, as a church the twelfth article of faith points out what we believe about baptism based on biblical teachings. Let me bring the second part of the article; "The church shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion". (*Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. 2017-2021. p. 28*).

As a community of faith, in the Church of the Nazarene, we recognize that there are 3 ways to perform baptism that are biblically accepted.

The word baptism comes from the word "*baptizo*", which can be translated in the following ways: "leave overwhelmed, completely wet, baptism, baptize, wash." (*Strong. New Strong Exhaustive Concordance. Caribe / Betania Editors. Thomas Nelson, 2002*).

The literal translation of the word is immersion, but as we can see, other ways this word can be translated are: "Completely wet" or "wash". For example, when we read passages like Matthew 7:4 and Luke 11:38, the word "*baptizo*" is translated as washing.

Let's see what Luke says: "But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal", here we realize that it is not referring to putting the whole body in, but to the spilling of water on the hands, as in this case, referring to the ceremony of hand washing that was performed before eating. So, sprinkling or the affusion, which is pouring water on the disciple's head, is symbolically washing him.

There are 2 key issues regarding baptism that should be very clear to us. The first is that baptism does not save us, the Scripture is very clear, we are saved through Christ by faith and by grace. That is to say, the Lord Jesus by dying on the cross bought our salvation, and by believing in the promise to save us, for His love, that benefit applies to our lives. The second is that baptism is a sacrament, a command that our Lord gave us and that is related to our salvation, it is the external manifestation of an internal condition. If we have experienced salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we now obey Him and must fulfill the first mandate for the disciple; that he should be baptized. (Read Matthew 28:18-20).

"And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

- Acts 8:38



WHAT IS BAPTISM?

What implications does it have for our lives? Who can or should be baptized? Can I be baptized?

The word baptism and its conjugations come from a Greek word used by the authors of the New Testament, this word is "*baptizo*", which could literally be translated as; "leave overwhelmed, completely wet, baptism, baptize, wash." (*Strong. New Strong Exhaustive Concordance. Caribe/Betania Editors. Thomas Nelson, 2002*).

It is a ceremony in which a person makes it known publicly that he has believed in Jesus Christ and has received Him as Lord and Savior, accepting His teachings as the norm that will give direction to his life.

As a community of faith, the Church of the Nazarene has made a statement that is based on a variety of biblical passages that address the subject of baptism, in its twelfth article of faith it says as follows: "We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness. Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training". (*Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. 2017-2021. p. 28*).

This first part makes it clear that it is a command given by the Lord Jesus Christ, which is a means of His grace for those who have believed and manifest their faith through an attitude of obedience to the Lord's commands. If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior, you are called to go to the waters to be baptized, and thus publicly manifest your decision to live obeying His commandments.

The apostle Paul, when teaching the Church that was in the City of Corinth, referred to baptism as the sign of death to our life far from God and His will, to then resurrect and live in a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. (Read Romans 6:1-14 and Colossians 2:6-15).

For his part, the apostle Peter referred to Noah and his family, who was saved by the waters in the flood, now those of us who have believed in Christ and are saved also give testimony when passing through the waters, confirming by this action our faith and belief in God. (Read 1 Peter 3:18-22).



BIBLICAL SUPPORT



The call of our Lord is for us to be his disciples, men and women who have decided to live according to his commandments, and the first of them is that we go to the waters of baptism.

According to Acts 8:26-40 and 9:1-18, what is the requirement that a candidate must meet to be baptized?

What are the 3 forms of baptism practiced by the Church of the Nazarene?

What is the difference between the forms of sprinkling and affusion with the one of immersion?

As we read passages like Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:26-40 and 9:1-18, we realize that the requirement to be baptized is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.





REFLECTION

That you have made it to this lesson makes me think that you have believed in Jesus and received Him as your Lord and Savior.

Now let me ask you one more time, have you been baptized? Yes () No ()

If your answer was "yes", let me congratulate you, being a disciple of the Lord implies our faith obedient to His commands. If your answer was "no", the main reason a person does not get baptized is the false idea that a certain degree of maturity or holiness is necessary, but we must remember that each person who was baptized in the passages we have read was a new disciple of Jesus, they decided to believe in Jesus and His teachings, they did not have greater knowledge or spiritual maturity, so again I want to encourage you to try to take this step of faith and obedience.



PRACTICE

It is clear that baptism is a key step in the development of our Christian life, however, many Christians leave this step of faith for later.

What are you planning to do?

What baptismal form would you like the Pastor to use for you?

Have you thought of a special date for you to be baptized? Yes () No ()

What date would it be? _____

Talk to your leader or Pastor about your questions or thoughts regarding baptism. The Christian life is designed to be lived in community and the counsel of spiritually mature Christians will always be important.