Basic Christian Doctrines Bible Study

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."
Hebrews 6:1-2 NIV

Lesson Four – Baptisms

1. Why should we be baptized?

   a) Jesus commanded us – "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19 NIV

   b) It is symbolic of dying to ourselves (sins) and being raised up in Christ Jesus (new life).

   – "having been buried with him [Christ] in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:12 NIV

   – "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4 NIV

   c) It is a way of showing our repentance – "He [John the Baptist] went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Luke 3:3 NIV

2. In the New Testament, the Bible speaks of 3 baptisms:

   a) Water baptism for repentance from sins – "I baptize you with water for repentance." Matthew 3:11a NIV

   b) Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for the power to witness and to receive spiritual gifts

   – "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."" Acts 1:5 NIV

   – "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8 NIV

   c) Baptism of fire for purification of our souls – "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew 3:11b NIV

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