

A Christian and Water Baptism

The fundamental act after conversion

Fredrick G. Omondi

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from King James version of the Holy Bible.

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Fredrick G. Omondi

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INTRODUCTION

Water baptism is required for all those who have a conversion experience in their lives so as to fulfil all righteousness. Only those so saved need to be baptised in much water by having their bodies completely immersed in water and be in a position as one in a grave for a short while (a matter of some seconds) before they are finally taken out of the water. When they are to be immersed in much water, they are to be told that they are being baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The baptism happens to be one of the ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ that he left to the Church, the other being the Holy Communion. Because of their importance in Christianity it was necessary to come up with a book that specifically deals with the whole issue of water baptism in detail and hence you can now have a copy of this book to know the ABC of water baptism for your own good as a Christian.

It is imperative for a Christian to see to it that he or she is baptized and baptized well (rightly) at the earliest opportunity. Baptism is not an option in

Christianity. The book is invaluable to you, as a Christian (John 1:6-13, Acts 2:36-42).

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavoured to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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Chapter One

Water Baptism as a Command

Water Baptism is a command from the Lord and need to be done to all those who become followers of the Lord through their conversion to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. It involves being dipped / immersed / completely submerged in water.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

All people have to be taught the word of God and all that believe and are ready to follow the footsteps of Christ, that is, have received him, are to be water baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. They are further to be taught to observe (practise) the word of God in their lives.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14-18

That is the sequence of events. People to be preached to the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, they believe, then they are water baptized. You can see clearly that believing alone is not enough, one has to be baptized in water as well. If you have believed and have been baptized in water what will follow is that in Jesus' name you will be able to cast out demons from those possessed and you shall be able to speak in a new tongue and the list continues.

Nic-o-de'-mus saith unto him, How can a man be born again 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 cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:4-5

It is that plain. One is born of the Spirit by believing in Jesus Christ and then born of water in one's baptism, also known as believers' baptism, as it is purely and exclusively for believers in Christ Jesus.

Now one needs to be baptized in much water by complete body immersion immediately after conversion or at the earliest opportunity possible.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

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 ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

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

Acts 2: 36-41

Here we see Apostle Peter commanding for baptism because he has perceived rightly that those people were candidates for salvation (were deeply affected in the heart) and were ready for anything in order to be saved so he just directed them to repentance for their salvation. They had believed in their heart and now needed to confess by their mouth calling on the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ) to be saved (Romans 10:8-10). I said Apostle Peter was right in his judgement of the people as you can see three thousand people had believed and were baptized.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48

Here we see those people with Cornelius in Cornelius' house all believed in the word of God (in Christ Jesus) and immediately were filled with the Holy Spirit and were now saved and were candidates for water baptism.

Apostle Peter just posed that question as a mere formality to his colleagues that accompanied him on his journey to Cornelius and that is why he then straight away went on to command for baptism to be administered to those new converts (believers).

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named An-a-ni'-as; and to him said the Lord in a vision, An-a-ni'-as. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named An-a-ni'-as coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Then An-a-ni'-as answered, Lord, I have heard many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And An-a-ni'-as went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou comest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Acts 9:10-18

The task God gave to Ananias was to have Saul receive back his sight and to be water baptized. The glory of God and his words had heavily impacted on the life of Saul and he was now a new creature in Christ Jesus and that is why he received the Holy Spirit (verses 1-5, 17-18). Although we are not seeing God specifically telling Ananias to baptize Saul, obvious he must have being told so in the vision too, if not, Ananias knew the commandment of the Lord, that new believers must be baptized and for God to have said Saul was a chosen vessel, it meant he has become one already- (verse 15). I do thank the Lord for this believer, why? he did not behave like prophet Jonah but after listening to all the Lord had told him, he straight away obeyed convinced and accomplished the task given him (verses 15 to 18).

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

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 8:35-38

Philip the Evangelist knew that God commands that those who believe in Jesus Christ be water baptized. Therefore when he received confirmation by the eunuch's confession, he straight away baptized him.

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

Here too, in the city of Samaria, those that believed in Christ Jesus after being preached to by Philip, were water baptized both men and women.

And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thy-a-ti'-ra, which worshiped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Acts 16:13-15

From all the above the pattern is the same as surely it is a command for believers to be baptized.

Chapter Two

Jesus Christ: Our example

Now Jesus Christ did not just give out the command for people (his followers) to be water baptized but also walked the talk by presenting himself at River Jordan, to be baptized by John the Baptist. He wanted to identify himself with his followers by example and not mere talk. The baptism John was administering was a baptism of repentance for the remission of sin. But because the Lord lived a sinless life, he needed no repentance as the other people who came to John the Baptist to be baptized after repenting of their sins.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens

were opened unto him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus Christ was thus water baptized before he began his public ministry. It follows therefore that all those who have accepted him become his followers/disciples and have to be water baptized just as their Master.

Other scriptures that touch on the baptism of Jesus Christ are as follows:

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Luke 3:21-22

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Mark 1:9-11

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is he of whom I said,

After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:29-34

You can see for yourself that all the four gospels have reported the event of Jesus' baptism in water by John the Baptist.

Chapter Three

John the Baptist: The Messenger

God in the New Testament had sent a messenger to initiate and begin water baptism to people. That messenger was none other than John the Baptist, who was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth who were righteous before God. Now John the Baptist was a fore-runner of Jesus Christ and began his ministry of preparing the hearts of the people for the Lord Jesus Christ who was to come after him, so that they are able to welcome him in their hearts (the way of the Lord). John the Baptist did this by calling for repentance and right living after they are baptized by him.

He further told the people to believe in the one coming, who was more worthy (mightier) than him, and that he baptized with water but the one coming was going to baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of Camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

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.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sad'-du-cees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:1-17

THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the lord, make his paths straight.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

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.

And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

NOW in the fifteenth year of the reign of Ti-be'-rius Caesar, Pontius Pilace being governor of Judea, and Herod being te'-trarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip te'-trarch of I-tu-rae'-a and of the region of Trach-o-ni'-tis, and Ly-sa'-ni-as the te'-trarch of Ab-i-le'-ne,

An'-nas and Cai-a-phas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the Son of Zech-a-ri'-ah in the wilderness.

And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves,

We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him,

Master, what shall we do?

And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, do

violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

But Herod the te'-trarch, being reprov'd by him for He'-ro'-di-as his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done.

Add yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

Luke 3:1-20

And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What then?

Art thou Eli'-jah? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us.

What sayest thou of thyself?

He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet isai'-ah.

And they which were sent of the Pharisees.

And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Eli'-jah, neither that prophet?

John answered them saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

These things were done in Beth-ab'-a-ra beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

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Mark 1:1-8

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Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves,

We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you,
That God is able of these stones to raise up children
unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the
trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth
good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

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Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:1-12

There was some variation after Jesus Christ began his ministry people repented of their sins and believed in the Lord, then water baptism followed in that order.

Chapter Four

The significance of Water Baptism

Water Baptism is the fulfilment of all righteousness after one's conversion to Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Saviour. It may as well be said as the crowning of one's salvation.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Matthew 3:13-15

It is a necessity to be immersed in water in baptism to show one's obedience to the Lord who saved one and who went through it as an example to be followed by all who shall believe in him for their salvation.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being

put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth 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:

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

1 Peter 3:18-22

By water baptism which is also known as believers' baptism, one is not being washed of filth of the flesh in the baptism but one is simply showing a good conscience toward God after one has now believed in the Lord.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were prickled in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

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 ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

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

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread and in prayers.

Acts 2:36-41

Apart from fulfilling all righteousness, Water Baptism seems to be the one that enables the receipt of the Holy Spirit, as some scriptures point out. That could be the reason in my case that I got Spirit filled after a year of my conversion to Christ as I was baptized much later (most likely one year later) after my conversion. I remember I was saved in the month of June and got Spirit filled in the month of June one year later. Now let us keenly look at the following scriptures.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John for bade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:13-17

In the above scripture you can see Jesus who is the perfect example for all believers had to wait and be baptized before God the Father who acknowledged His love for him could allow the Holy Spirit to come to him. How about you and I mortal men?

When Jesus went to Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist he was the Son of God (Luke 1:26-35) but surprisingly it is only when finally he is baptized and comes out of the water that God from heaven acknowledged to John the Baptist that he Jesus is the Son of God (John 1:19-34) and as you read that gospel according to saint John, John the Baptist knew him not earlier but could now witness to others that Jesus is the Son of God and the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

When one has repented of one's sins and have believed in the Lord Jesus and goes ahead to be baptised, at that juncture God acknowledges one as his son and daughter and is pleased with him or her from that time on and one becomes a recipient of

the Holy Spirit. Now let me begin with what the Lord himself said to his disciples.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14-18

Now look at that scripture very keenly. It says one has to believe, be baptized as a necessity to be considered saved. All these are in a sequence one after another and there is left no ambiguity on the issue at hand.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what, shall we do?

The Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:36-38

You can see clearly in the above scripture that apostle Peter told the Israelites that after the truth he has told them and which they had believed in, they now needed to repent of their sins and be baptized and then they will be in a position to receive the Holy spirit.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I

will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And An-a-ni'-as went his way, and entered into the house: and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then Saul was certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 9:15-20

Apostle Paul must have received the Holy Spirit after being baptized after receiving back his sight. The Holy Spirit then enabled him to preach Christ boldly in the synagogues (verses 21-22). The boldness comes only after one is filled with the

Holy Spirit which is the power of God for living and serving in one's calling.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and, magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48

Now that incident is an exception and not the norm. They received the Holy Spirit prior to water baptism and the same I have witnessed too that some people receive the Holy Spirit through the word of God being preached to them straight away

even before they go for water baptism as believers. I have no explanation but God knows why it happens differently at times.

Please note that even after receiving the Holy Spirit apostle Paul insisted those people be water baptized, he actually commanded as water Baptism is a commandment of God for all true believers in his Son.

Another important thing to note is that by accepting to be water baptized one shows true obedience to what one has believed in (that is in Christ) as believing is an action and that action is obedience by going for water baptism.

Let me share an experience on this one. The village where I am living God opened a big door for winning souls to him and evangelized and many got saved and I was excited but alas, when I told them about water baptism and even explained to them, some said they were baptized in their churches where they attend services and none of them went for water baptism that was scheduled. Later I got word that some of them told other people that I was forcing them to go for water baptism. I then did

realize these lot cannot go far with the salvation they received as they were disobedient not to me but to God who created them and have saved them by his grace. I went further and told God I am unable to do more for, them as they are disobedient right from the beginning of their salvation and to me it would be futile to go further and I leave them to him, Let him do what he feels about them.

AND it came to pass, that, while A-pol'-los was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Eph'-e-sus: and finding certain disciples,

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, 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.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 19:1-6

You can see that apostle Paul was tying water baptism to receiving of the Holy Spirit. These disciples believed in Jesus, were water baptized and it was now possible for them to receive the Holy Spirit. It is the norm for all that gladly receive the word of God and repent, to be so baptized.

WHAT shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: 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 6:1-5

IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

A candidate in water baptism in being so baptized is declaring publicly that he believes in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and shows the same in obedience to Christ by his or her own burial in the water and death to sin and the resurrection to a new life of righteousness.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened

together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Blotting out the handwriting of the ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Colossians 2:12-14

By the water baptism one is spiritually quickened and rises with Christ having been forgiven sins one committed in life; those sins being nailed on the cross of Jesus and one's spirit is resurrected. Thereby.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruptible.

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 42-45

The new covenant that God promised between him and his children become clear through water baptism where the old nature of man is cut away and buried and then one experiences newness of life in Christ.

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

Those who had believed in the Lord, both men and women were later water baptised.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, know the lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8:6-13

In Water baptism there is an inward work that takes place in the heart of a believer and which is done by the person of the Holy Spirit. A spiritual operation takes place known as the circumcision of the heart. As circumcision of the foreskin was a sign in the Old Testament between God and the Israelites (a covenant), so in the New Testament, Water baptism becomes the covenant between God and his children (believers in Christ Jesus). Here the heart is circumcised instead of the foreskin, and the old nature of sin is done away with its desires and lusts.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; every man child among you shall be circumcised.

And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin;
and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me
and you.

Genesis 17:10-11

That was in the Old Testament but now it is
different. Read on.

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither
is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

**But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and
circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit,
and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men,
but of God.**

Romans 2:28-29

As indicated earlier, a circumcision of the heart
takes place in a believer which is essentially the
work of God.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ
Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptised into
Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

The above scripture says a lot; that by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and are baptised in him, not only are they children of God but put on Christ in their life. Quite amazing indeed!

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptizes into Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: 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:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:3-6

Many things seem to occur at water baptism as with it, one's old man (the body of sin) is crucified and one can begin a new life of not walking in sin - a remarkable thing.

Chapter Five

What is not Water Baptism

Water Baptism should not be used as a registration exercise as some churches have done by baptizing people and then now treating them as members of that church. Some churches claim even burial rights on a dead body (who was in their church) simply because he or she was baptized there and therefore was a member of that church and therefore deserve a burial service from that church. It is all absolutely out of order. Church membership/registration is automatic and is not the work of man but the work of God, the work of the Holy Spirit. All those who have accepted the gospel message and have come to repentance they become members of the body of Christ (the Church) by receiving the Holy Spirit and their names are registered in heaven in the Lamb's book of life. Church attendance alone does not qualify one to be a member and part of Christ.

Water Baptism equally is not meant as some churches practise, for baptizing babies or small under age children who don't know good or evil. Such are to be blessed by dedicating them to the

Lord. (Mark 10:13-16, Luke 2:22-24, 1 Samuel 1:21-28). On the same note, the youth and adults equally should not be baptized at all until that time that they accept the gospel believing in the Lord and repenting of their sins. Also, those who are say, very sick and on and on their death bed, need not be baptized in trying to get some favour from God, if they have not surrendered their lives to the Lord in repentance. Such expected 'favour to be' are not forthcoming from the Lord and is but a public relations exercise and of no consequence - one cannot convince God with such acts of ignorance of his word.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Luke 2:22-24

And the man El-ka'-nah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child is weaned,

and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

And El-ka'-nah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one e'-phah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shi'-loh: and the child was young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to E'-li.

And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And she worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:21-28

From the above scriptures we see clearly that small babies / small children are only to be taken to the Lord for dedication and NOT for water baptism.

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) but the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 3:21

I think the above scripture also do shed light on the issue of water baptism. It is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but it is the answer of a good conscience toward God and touching on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is obedience to God. As to Christ's resurrection it does touch on faith as per the epistle of Paul to the church at Rome (Romans 10:8-9). We are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Christ Jesus. Some have mistaken water baptism and equated it with salvation. That kind of deception had crept in some churches that do water baptism indiscriminately and not understanding the meaning of water baptism.

I have noticed something that is not right in some churches on the issue of water baptism which I think they are misusing knowingly or unknowingly. I have met many people during my personal evangelism and when I ask them if they are saved (born again), they just tell me for them, they are baptized, and I do wonder what kind of baptism that is, without conversion of the heart!? These only know and believe in water baptism and not salvation. That reminds me of the believers that apostle Paul met at Ephesus, on his missions preaching in various cities. He did ask them one question “Since you believed, did you receive the Holy Spirit?” They answered, we have not heard at all that there is the Holy Spirit. ‘’And the apostle asked them another question “Which baptism were you baptized with?” They answered, “The baptism of John” And the conversation continued until they got help from the Lord through the Apostle. You can read that in the book of Acts (Acts 19:1-7). It seems in some churches they don’t preach Jesus but are busy with religion and ‘playing church’. How comes that people are in churches year in, year out

and what they know and have is only water baptism (which also was not forthcoming as they were not saved in the first place). I even go further and preach to them Jesus but as if they are hypnotized they maintain that they are baptized and see no need to invite Jesus in their lives, how sad and absurd! They value water baptism more than repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. I may ask just as Apostle Paul asked some in the church at Galatia “Who bewitched you, you foolish Galatians” (Galatians 3:1-7). According to such people I have mentioned above, to them it seems they are okay with God by merely being water baptized and may be thinking they are on their way to heaven to meet the Lord. Therefore they continue to live by religion and not in Christianity. How mistaken they are and will be surprised when it is too late. May the Lord open their eyes to see their folly and come to Him (John 5:39-44). Some churches may be teaching very strange doctrines for their members are so naïve. Which Bible do they read? I wonder! All the truth is in the Holy Bible and one need not be deceived by false teachings (2 Timothy 3:16-

17). These days there are wolves who have infiltrated many churches and one must have a true conversion experience and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us look at how Apostle Paul addressed the elders of the church at Ephesus, then later look at what the Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus.

And from Mi-le'-tus he sent to Eph'-e-sus, and called the elders of the church.

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bounds and afflictions abide me.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, **that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.**

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:17-32

Well, you have been forewarned and is now not ignorant of the time we are living in, a very dangerous time and one must be in the Lord (2 Timothy 3:1-9).

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come

from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nic-o-de'-mus 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 cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:1-6

Come out of religion and even position in the church as Nicodemus was and join Christianity (be saved – be in Christ). You are still just flesh though now born of water (was water baptized) but not born of the Spirit (not born again) because you have not opened your heart to Christ Jesus, who is the Saviour and baptizer in the Holy Spirit. Repent therefore asking God for forgiveness of your sins and accept Jesus by opening your heart for him to

come into your life (Revelation 3:20). Jesus Christ promised his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit who will come to them on his behalf and to guide them in all truth.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:15-17

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

John 16:13

You can see that Jesus Christ told Nicodemus who was in a high position among the Jews that he must be born again (as position alone is not enough).

Also he said in the above scriptures his followers/ disciples will receive the Holy Spirit (the Comforter). Moreover apostle Paul said if one does not have the Spirit of God he / she is not of His (Romans 8:9), meaning one must have a true conversion experience and not mere ritual as some churches have made water baptism to be.

Chapter Six

The heart of the candidate

The condition of the heart of the candidate for water baptism must be right before God (2 Corinthians 7:10). One need not go for water baptism in pretence and hypocrisy as the Pharisees and the Sadducees and had to be rebuked by John the Baptist. Water baptism is not some game but it is a serious heart issue. (Matthew 3:7-12). It is not an exercise in futility and hence the fruit meet for repentance is required.

Some examples of genuine repentance are as follows in the book of Saint Luke (Luke 7:36-48; 19:1-10).

For godly sorrow worketh repentance: to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

2 Corinthians 7:10

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O

generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruit meet for repentance:

And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able to these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:7-12

John the Baptist did not mince his words and warned them of the impending danger on the unrepentant. For those who genuinely repent, Jesus Christ the mighty one will bring to them salvation,

but the hypocrites (the unrepentant) surely he will bring judgement on them. There are two things in verse 12 - The Holy Spirit and fire. Jesus Christ is both Saviour and Judge. You know very well that God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29) so no jokes around please.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrew 12:28-29

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

And, behold, **a woman in the city, which was a sinner**, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisees house, **brought an alabaster box of ointment**,

And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe

them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

And he turned to the woman and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath

washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Luke 7:36-48

What can I say? It could not be better than that. Now Jesus said to some that he has come so that those who are blind can see and those who can see to be blind. That is exactly what happened here in this incident.

The woman sinner who was in the darkness of this world and blind (could not see spiritually) was able to identify Jesus as some one very special and indeed he is, he is a Saviour, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. No wonder this woman showed it all by loving Jesus more and giving him VIP treatment throughout. This woman had decided to

completely leave those ordinary men she went out with and only to stick to this extraordinary man and she gave all she could to Jesus. Her tears were genuine tears and not crocodile tears, as they were coming from the bottom of her heart. Meanwhile the Pharisee (a religionist) who can hardly see far, could not recognize Jesus even in his own house (spiritual blindness) and began imagining that Jesus was a mere man and not the Servant of God (a Prophet). Jesus was getting all the thoughts of the Pharisee directly in the spirit realm and began to address him on his thought life.

As usual Jesus began by saying a parable which actually meant Simon the Pharisee and the woman of the city (were both debtors to God - that is, sinners before God). Jesus then went ahead to challenge this Pharisee by hitting the head of the nail to put across his message very clearly. Although the Pharisee had invited Jesus Christ to come and dine in his house, he didn't love him so much as the woman of the city. The Pharisees had big problems. This one could not know that Jesus Christ was the wisdom of God as the scripture says.

Better be a Christian (born again) and not a religionist. Remember another Pharisee and read in the same book of Luke (Luke 18:9-14). Too bad to be a Pharisee. Unfortunately we still have so many around in the churches.

AND Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

And, behold, there was a man named Zac-che'-us, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said unto him, Zac-che'-us, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

And he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

And Zac-che'-us stood, and said unto the Lord;
Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the
poor; and if I had taken anything from any man by
false accusation, I restore him four fold.

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation
come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of
Abraham.

For the Son of man is come to seek and save that
which was lost.

Luke 19:1-10

When Jesus entered and passed through Jericho, he
had already known that Zacchaeus the publican
wanted to see him very badly and would go ahead
and climb a sycamore tree. So the fact that he
looked up, was not an accident but a deliberate
move. (verses1-5). Do you know those who
murmured in verse 7? Your guess is as good as
mine, they were the Pharisees, I believe so as it is
their characteristic (always being critical, even with
the obvious). Now I like this publican for one thing.
He knew that Jesus was a busy man and he did not
want to waste his precious time. He did not wait for
him to ask him “Now Mr Zacchaeus, What have

you to say now that I have come? Or “Mr Zacchaeus, repent your sins now”. Zacchaeus went ahead to the point for wanting to see Jesus by beginning to repent (verse 8) and Jesus told him what he needed, that salvation had come to him. (Verse 9). I believe verse 10 Jesus most likely was addressing the murmurers (who thought they were righteous before God) and saw the others as sinners. (Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-11).

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

The point in that scripture is the need for looking inside oneself and not looking outside on others. It is self-examination without which it is but hypocrisy on one's part.

THEREFORE thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

But we are sure that the judgement of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgement of God?

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God, leadeth thee to repentance?

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasureth up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

For there is no respect of persons with God.

Romans 2:1-11

Now the above scripture is so much detailed on the issue of looking outside oneself instead of looking inside oneself.

It says that there is no excuse on one who judges the others. By judging the others instead of judging oneself, one is in effect condemning oneself as also do err just as the others one is judging. All people

fall short in one way or another before a holy God who is just and truthful as well (the Omniscient one). Therefore no one need not despise the goodness of God which is for giving one a chance to repent and not for one to harden one's heart and be unrepentant and therefore, become a candidate for God's judgment (As He (God) is Himself righteous) and will bring justice to all according to their deeds (be it good or bad) and that He (God) does not respect any person (as to do justice unfairly by partiality). God is not a man to do that kind of thing - he is perfect in all ways.

Chapter Seven

Examples of Water Baptism

The Scripture record a number of incidents where water baptism was conducted on various individuals and you are going to see for yourself some of them I have omitted, which I had mentioned earlier on earlier chapters.

After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

And John also was baptizing in Ae'-non near to Sa'-lim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

John 3:22-23

MOREOVER, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Then Philip went down to the city of Sa-mar'-i-a and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Sa-mar'-i-a, giving out that himself was some great one:

To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying,

This man is the great power of God.

And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

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 8:5-12

Many people even today continue to believe false apostles, false prophets, false evangelists, false pastors and false teachers, who have infiltrated many churches today and posing as servants of the Lord and going about even faking miracles and healings as has been aired many times in the various TV stations. Not all holding a Bible and preaching or teaching and so on are true servants of the Lord. Be very cautious with people, we are living in the last days and Satan is working overtime to lead many astray and far from God (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). I thank God that he opened the eyes of the people in the city of Samaria to see the true power of God (fire power) and to come to realize how they had fallen prey to the servant of Satan using demonic power (fake power).

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, go toward the south unto the way

that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Ga'-za, which is desert.

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of E-thi-o'-pi-a, a eunuch, of great authority under Can-da'-ce queen of the E-thi-o'-pi-ans, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isai'-ah the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isa-i'-ah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

in his humiliation his judgement was taken away:
and who shall declare his generation? For his life is
taken from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray
thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of
himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the
same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a
certain water and the eunuch said, See, here is
water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip, said, If thou believest with all thine
heart, thou mayest.

And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus
Christ is the Son of God.

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.

And when they were come up out of the water, the
Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the
eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way
rejoicing.

But Philip was found at A-zo'-tus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Cae-sa-re'-a.

Acts 8:26-40

Now Philip the Evangelist was really full of the Holy Spirit to have earlier preached in the city of Samaria and God performing all that great work. Because of Philip's obedience and walking in the Spirit of God, he was given yet another assignment which he accomplished and God so it fit to save time and transported him supernaturally to another location to continue with the work of the Lord. Verses 35 to 40 is quite interesting. It seems where this eunuch went probably it was a synagogue of the Pharisees, I say probably, because this eunuch seemed not to have received a gospel message and Philip the Evangelist had to be sent by the angel of the Lord to go and expound on the scripture to this eunuch. (Versus 26-35). Religionists, people want Jesus, not mere talk. Now a very important point on the candidature for water baptism, look very keenly at verses 36-38. The eunuch wanted to be baptized but Philip the Evangelist had to confirm if he is

really a candidate and qualifies to be baptized, and he confirmed it before conducting baptism to this eunuch. Please note that the eunuch was in high position but needed true conversion just as was the case with Nicodemus.

And An-a-ni'-as went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Acts 9:17-18

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48

Therefore loosing from Tro'-as, we came with a straight course to Sam-o-thra'-ci-a, and the next day to Ne-a'-po-lis;

And from thence to Phil'-ippi, which is the chief city of that part of Mac-e-do'-ni-a, and colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a riverside, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thy-a-ti'-ra, which worshiped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that

she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Acts 16:11-15

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundation of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here:

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, fell down before Paul and Silas,

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Acts 16:25-33

And when Silas and Timothy were come from Mac-e-do'-ni-a, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshiped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

And Cris'-pus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many

of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

Acts 18:5-8

AND it came to pass that, while A-pol'-los was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Eph'-e-sus: and finding certain disciples,

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, 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.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

And all the men were about twelve.

Acts 19:1-7

Chapter Eight

The Exemption from Water Baptism

There is an exemption case that is recorded in the scripture which you are going to see straight away before I proceed further.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying,

If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember we when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:39-43

The two malefactors who were hanged on the cross one on each side of the cross of Jesus were thieves (sinners) but Jesus Christ himself was not a sinner

but a Saviour. One of them did mock the Lord but the other did rebuke his fellow malefactor telling him that he could not fear God? That both of them deserved the punishment because of their sins but that their colleague on the cross between them (at the centre) was sinless. He recognized the Saviour and asked for favour and was forgiveness given a promise - "Today you shall be with me in paradise" Now the remorseful thief humbled himself before the Lord and the Lord did promise to exalt him. Compare this with the publican who did also get justified for humbling himself before God and before a Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14).

Now as the name of the chapter reads, this is an exemption from water baptism. Why? The obvious reason he was hanged on the cross just as his fellow malefactor as well as the Lord and all were in pain and soon would be dead and there was no time and possibility for water baptism. This was a unique case, an emergency to say, hence even the Lord saw it and approved of him to enter paradise without being water baptised. So, in such like situations, water baptism can be exempt before the

Lord. But in normal circumstances the norm is for one to be water baptized after one's conversion.

Chapter Nine

Conducting of Water Baptism

A. Preparation for water baptism

Just as with the Holy Communion where some preparation is required in advance, the same is true also with water baptism. Both these two are the ordinances of the Lord he left to the disciples. These two are special occasions before the Lord and cannot be taken for granted and done casually but must be done carefully in reverence to the Lord.

B. The spiritual and physical preparation

To begin first with the physical preparation, the candidates need to be told in advance to come with them with the following items: A bath towel, a set of clothes including say pair of socks or stockings as the case may be, for changing after water baptism after wiping oneself with the bath towel, and also a hair comb for straightening the hair. The sisters in addition need to come with a wrapping cloth say a 'leso' in Swahili language, to be used to wrap and tie their lower body parts prior to the

baptism to avoid the issue where their dresses can be blown by the wind at the time of the baptism or can float up in the water and thereby exposing their nakedness to the baptizer.

On the spiritual preparation just as on the Holy Communion there are teachings on the same prior to partaking of the Lord's supper, similarly here on water baptism, the candidates need to be informed early enough to come for a night vigil popularly known as 'kesha' in Swahili language, say on a Friday evening armed also with the holy Bible, a pen and a note book where they can take notes on the teachings on water baptism - the meaning and the importance and of how it is normally conducted. Also to be told in advance where it will be conducted if it is not the same venue for the night vigil. The night vigil in addition to the teachings, other activities to include are soul-searching, repentance, praises and worship to the Lord as well as praying. Early in the morning the actual water baptism needs to take place.

C. Place for water baptism

Initially water baptism was done more in rivers where there was much water (Matthew 3:1-6, John 3:23-24). But later on, in many churches today you find that there are some changes and some churches have had swimming pools constructed in say their church compounds (which is ideal) but for those who don't have, request the churches that have that facility to use theirs. Alternatively some churches request Educational Institutions that have such a facility to be allowed to conduct water baptism there. Also some churches do make some arrangement with say hotels that have such facility to do the water baptism there (which is the worst arrangement) due to some obvious moral issues.

Reasons for choice of a church swimming pool.

There are some valid reasons for choosing a church swimming pool instead of a school or a Hotel swimming of which I am going to explain beginning with a church swimming pool followed by the other two.

i) Church swimming pool

To begin with, swimming pools erected in church compounds are not common in that they are not meant for swimming but for a special purpose, a special purpose and for a special group of people. They are meant for one thing which is for water baptism for those who have been born-again for divine purposes and therefore they are sacred (Acts 2:36-38; 22:1-16, Mark 16:14-16, Matthew 28:16-20).

The candidates for water baptism come at the venue of baptism properly dressed and are water baptized in the clothes they are putting on and there are no cases at all of semi nudity in the exercise. The exercise is orderly as there is a servant of God to do it and it is not a do-it-yourself or free-for-all thing. It is an act of obedience to God.

ii) School or Hotel swimming pools

As for a school swimming pool its purpose is for swimming by students as part of Physical Education in Schools curriculum just as other sports away from a classroom environment and is

basically for physical exercises to reduce the monotony of being in class everyday from morning to afternoon. It is therefore for rejuvenating as well relaxing the body and is but for the body and not for the soul. (1 Timothy 4:8). As for a hotel swimming pool it is common just as a School one because it is meant for swimming and anybody who can afford can go and swim there and it is for relaxation/leisure and people dress in underpants and bikini when going into the water and for men especially they have no clothing to cover their upper body. Swimming pools in such places unlike in a private home, they are open to the public and people are just partially dressed and there is no order at all and it is a do-it-yourself situation.

From the above you can see that they are contrary one from another. My advice is for all Bible believing churches should erect their own swimming pools to avoid embarrassments and defilements from other institutions and if a church lacks one can enquire from other churches and make arrangements to do it where a swimming pool is available. Christians are wise folks and must

conduct themselves so and if other wise to read the following scriptures. (Matthew 10:16, Ephesians 5:6-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:5, James 1:5).

D. The conduct of water baptism

The baptizer need to have selected/identified a location which is most convenient at the swimming pool or river, whatever the place chosen, where one cant drown in and which is not too deep or too shallow but suitable for the exercise and wait there for the candidates who need to come to him one at a time and stand beside him (on the left of the baptizer). The baptizer to put his left hand on the back of the candidate and have the candidate fold both his/her hands together in front and the baptizer use his right hand to hold the folded hands together and to say the following words “so and so (name of the candidate) I do baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” followed by using reasonable force to immerse the candidate into the water ensuring the whole body from head to toe is completely inside the water (on a flat position as one lying in a grave), leaving the

body in the water for a few seconds and then lifting up the body out of the water using both his hands as was before.

At the immersion stage, the left hand holds the back of the candidate and the right hand pushes / presses down the candidate into the water. Normally when one does come out of the water, one is somehow unsteady and there need to be someone next to the baptizer, to usher the candidate out of the place and shown when they reach dry ground; where to go and change clothes. There need to be separate changing rooms. One for the females (sisters) and one for the males (brothers) for obvious reasons- to avoid the embarrassment and temptation by the eyes seeing the opposite sex undressing and dressing. After all the candidates have been baptized prayers can be said, just as before the baptism and then call it a day- every one can depart to their various destinations. So it was not a small thing but big, big.

God bless you as you partake of this noble exercise, in Jesus' name.

Notes to the reader

I thank you for reading this book and hope it has proved of much help in your Christianity. In case you do have something to share feel free to write to us using the address below.

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A Christian and Water Baptism

“A fundamental experience necessary immediately after conversion to Christ Jesus”

Water Baptism crowns one's salvation and is the outside symbolism of what has happened in a new convert and portrays the death of the convert to sin, resurrection to new life of righteousness and the looking forward to the resurrection of the body at the coming of Christ for the Church. It is the fulfilment of all righteousness in a new convert. Get on to know the following:

- The command of Water Baptism
- The significance of Water Baptism
- Jesus Christ: Our example
- John the Baptist: The Messenger
- The heart of the candidate
- What is not for Water Baptism
- The Exception from Water Baptism
- How Water Baptism need be conducted
- Examples of Water Baptism



The Author is Brother Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi who is a born again Christian aged 59 years old, married and they have a total of four children. He is also the Author of ‘The Youth and Christianity’, ‘The Holy Spirit and A Christian’, ‘The growing faith’, ‘The World of Wisdom’, ‘The Secret in Healing and Health, among many other titles.

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