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Baptism and Believing

There is something foundational in Mk 16:16 that we need to ask about and understand. It is about baptism.

If you read Mk 16:16 it says the word *believe* and the word *baptism*, and then *believe* again. But in 1 Cor 10:2 it talks about being baptized *into* Moses which gives us understanding of the word *baptism*. Since the children of Israel were able to walk into the Red Sea, with pillars of water 100 feet high that went on for miles and at any moment could have fallen down on them, they must have been totally identified in the revelation of Moses. Certainly, they really had to have faith to walk through those walls of water. They had to have such an *identity* with Moses that they would trust him in order to go across. There was no other way to get across except to be identified with Moses. However, according to Mk 16:16, some people *believe* but they will not confess the name of Yahshua — they will not identify with Him because they loved the praise of men rather than the praise of God; they are afraid of what others might say if they totally identified with our Master and His cause and His purpose and go with Him. For in order to go with Him, you would have to take up your cross, and die on it — to yourself, to everything, and leave everything behind and start a brand-new life in Him, trusting Him, and following Him. You cannot take anything with you except what is baptized (which means that your children and your family must be left behind too).

Mk 16:16 says that whoever believes and is baptized is saved, but Rom 10:9 brings out that the one who is saved is the one who has *faith* that he was the Messiah sent by God to establish a whole new social order, another Israel (a new Israel) to bring about His purpose on the earth. And that new social order is something that you have to devote your whole life to — all your energies, all of your plans and ambitions have to be forfeited in order to bring about the new social order, this new Israel, to bring about the end of this age and the beginning of a new age, in order to dethrone Satan by the unity of this people who are one, without any dissension or division — blameless. That is what He is establishing. Rom 10:9 shows us how we are to believe in order to be able to confess His name as the Sovereign: you have to believe in your heart that God raised Yahshua from the dead, and confess with your mouth that He is your King — you no longer live for yourself, but only for Him and His purpose according to the anointing of the Holy Spirit of understanding of the word of God. Mk 16:16 implies "the one who believes in his heart." He didn't have to say "believes in his heart", because he knew there would be teachers who *knew* that he meant "believes in his heart." (We have to know the whole word of God in order to teach.) In order to be saved, a person has to believe in his heart as in Acts 8:36,37. (Make sure your Bible says, "If you believe with all your heart" in verse 37.)

In verse 30, Philip ran up to the chariot and heard a man reading Isa 53 and said, "Do you *know* what you are reading? Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replied, "How could I unless someone explains it to me?" He was an honest man. There wasn't any pride in him. He *couldn't* understand it. How can *anyone* understand the Bible unless someone *explains* it, tells them what it means. Otherwise it only causes division (Acts 8:30-34). Then, verse 35, Philip told him the *whole* gospel about Yahshua as they traveled along the road. They might have gone on for miles and miles telling him the whole purpose of God, the whole thing, and then they came to some water. And if the eunuch said in verse 36, "Here's some water..." then you know that Philip had been talking to him about believing and being baptized. "Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave him orders to stop the chariot. "If you believe *with all your heart...*" (Some Bibles have "with all your hear" in the footnote.) And the eunuch answered, "I believe that Yahshua the Messiah is the Son of God."

In Rom 10:17 we learn that faith comes from hearing. From hearing who? What is 14-16 talking about? It talks about a sent one — just like faith came to the eunuch. Faith comes *to you* by hearing. Before, it was somewhere way off and you didn't have faith and then faith comes — it *came to you*. Whatever you had before wasn't faith — not until you heard it from a sent one, a prophet of God, without any deceit or falsehood in it (Jn 7:18).

In Acts 2:36, Peter was preaching the word of God on the day of Pentecost. Thousands were listening to him (but *only* 3000 of them heard with faith — faith came to them). After he got done preaching the good news to them they were cut to the heart and asked what they should do? So then Peter and the rest of the apostles explained to them what they had to do — they had to repent and be baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah in order to receive the Holy Spirit. So faith had to come by hearing and it had to produce repentance. With many other words: he kept exhorting them, telling them how to be saved from this wicked generation (verses 40,41), and those who *received that* word were baptized. That word had to be *received* by them in order for faith to *come* to them in order for them to repent and be baptized. [This is so important for you to know in order to proclaim the good news.] So the one who has faith will be baptized into Messiah because he believes into Him.

1 Pet 3:21 speaks about being baptized, having a new conscience washed clean of all we learned in the world. We are to count our worldly education of things as dung as Paul did. Paul was fabulously educated in his day. He was a zealous Jew, but he had to count it as dung — he had to bury it. Understand that.

1 Pet 3:21 says that it is an appeal for a new, renewed conscience, so that now you will know what sin is and what sin isn't.

1 Cor 12:13 — We all drink from one spirit after we are baptized by the Spirit into the Body. There is no way to get into the Body except through baptism by the Spirit (Gal 3:27).

Baptism is not just a dunking into the water — it is by the Spirit who baptizes us into the Body *through* the water in water baptism. There is nothing magical in the water. Instead, it is the Spirit, faith, wanting to become part of that new society, coming out of that old society, becoming a *new* person, having a *new* conscience, getting rid of that old conscience, having your guilt and sins removed. [You've already been instructed in this.] Gal 3:27 — believing is being baptized into Messiah, clothing yourself with him. Whoever is baptized into Messiah has put Him on, clothed themselves with Him. We are clothed with Messiah. God considers us to be clothed with Him. That is the foundation in baptism. Now we want to build on that.

We can see that baptism and believing are intricately related, without separation. Christians don't understand that they are intricately related — inseparable. Mk 16:16 — He that believes and *is* baptized will be what? Saved. But he who does *not* believe will not be baptized. He may go into the water, but he is not baptized — therefore he will be condemned. So understand: Those who *believe* and are baptized will be saved. But the one who does not believe and is baptized will be condemned. He might go in the water, but if he doesn't believe, he isn't baptized. We must grasp the inseparability of the two words and two actions — believing and baptism. And the one who does not believe will be condemned, *especially* those who were baptized without believing in their heart that God raised Yahshua from the dead. Jn 9:41 — The reason they are going to the second death is because they claim to believe but they don't believe. They are baptized but they don't believe. Jn 9:41 is an important verse — "You would not have guilt remaining on you if you did not *claim* to see, but because you claim to see, your guilt remains." So understand: Whoever is baptized and doesn't believe is condemned. In Mk 16:16 he did not have to say, "those who don't believe and are not baptized," he only had to say, "those who don't believe," because there is no such thing as baptism without believing. It is important to understand this.

Baptism is only a ritual for people if they don't believe in their heart and don't know they are entering a new life in which the old life is cut off and you are a new creation — old things pass away, all things become new — entering a new social order which is bringing about the end of this age and the beginning of another age by our unity and our love for one another. (We have love poured out, and our Father rewards us according to how much we *use* the love that our Father has poured in our heart, Rom 5:5, to what degree we lavish it on others or how much we hold it to ourselves.) Baptism should never be a ritual for anyone if we know these secrets — if we know it and explain it to people, making sure that no one is baptized in a ritual without believing in their heart that God raised His Son Yahshua from the dead. It is a miracle that anyone can believe that. You can believe it in your mind, but to believe it in your heart *is* a miracle. That's the *gift* of God.

Therefore, baptism *proves* one's faith in the Son of God. Going to the water doesn't prove it, but baptism does. What is baptism? Baptism is how to get *into* the Body and clothed with Messiah, filled with love, fitting into the Body. It proves our faith. If a person doesn't have true faith, he is like a thief and a robber. But everyone who heard and believed will put on Messiah and be identified with Him in baptism, thus they enter into the Body *here on earth* by getting a new conscience and receiving the Holy Spirit (Rom 10:17; Gal 3:27; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 1:13).

How did they receive the Holy Spirit? Eph 1:13 says that it was by *hearing* the gospel. So was it by believing what you heard or by doing some kind of good works? By believing what you heard. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit by hearing the word of faith. In Eph 1:13-14, Paul didn't have to say, "when you were baptized," because we know that Paul said, "you were sealed with the Holy Spirit when you heard the word." That means when we were baptized.

Acts 2:38,41 — with many other *words* their faith to be baptized entered into their hearts and they repented. Then, to show their repentance, they were baptized. Peter said that you have to repent and be baptized. So they had to show that they repented by being baptized — it showed that they had faith. To show this repentance, they were baptized into Messiah on earth. Now what if they said they believed but wouldn't be baptized? Well, they were not in the Body. They wouldn't have broken bread with them, they wouldn't have had anything to do with them, for baptism and belief are the same — they are intricately related to one another. (Someday you will see how important this is. Right now [in your young stage] you might take this for granted, but you will be challenged on this over and over again in the next 50 years.)

So, through baptism, they (Acts 2:38-42) entered into the Body of Messiah as demonstrated on earth — "...and those who believed were baptized and were devoted to the apostles' teaching, devoted to the distributions, devoted to the breaking of bread, devoted to praying, devoted to the morning and evening sacrifices. They were devoted to it (Acts 2:42-49; 4:32-39).

Those who *claim* to believe in Acts 2:37 and were not baptized, they did not receive the Holy Spirit, nor did anyone break bread with them. Remember that.

Eph 2:8 says, "by grace you are saved *through* faith." How does faith come? by hearing. It was grace that someone was *sent* to you. God loved you *so* much that He allowed *you* to hear the good news. Over and above billions of people on the earth, you have heard the good news and responded to it. We are saved by grace — grace that He allowed *you* to hear the good news.

In Eph 2:8 the word *save* is translated from the Greek word which means a past tense experience but a *continuing* to be experienced; presently and going on into the future. Since we were saved, we were *sealed* with the Spirit until the day of the redemption of our bodies — when we turn our old bodies in and get new bodies. And then we will see the full amount of the Spirit. Right now we only have a *pledge* of the Spirit, a foretaste of the Spirit, but the day will come

when we have the fullness of God (Eph 1:14). Therefore we are saved until the day of redemption. *Eph 4:30; Eph 1:13* — it is essential that you know this. Full redemption, salvation will come to us on the day when we are redeemed with an imperishable body. Right now we have a perishable body, and right now we have received the first fruits of the Spirit (Eph 1:14).

So to be saved one must experience faith and faith comes by hearing. If you are going to be saved, you are being drawn by God to Messiah (Jn 6:42). If you are going to be saved, you are in the process of hearing and faith coming to you — that is the drawing process (Jn 6:44) — you are being drawn. All of us were drawn.

Now, what did *Paul* do when *he* was saved? Paul wasn't saved until three days *after* he saw Yahshua and got knocked off his horse and saw the great light, since no one is saved until their sins are forgiven. And you see in Acts 8:36 how the eunuch had to hear from Philip and then be baptized; and in Acts 22:16 we see Paul having to be baptized. There was no doubt about Paul's belief, but he had to *prove* it by being baptized into Messiah. Even though Paul believed, his sins weren't forgiven yet — his sins weren't forgiven until he was baptized. Always remember that verse; never forget it — *Acts 22:16*.

And then in Acts 16:31-34 you see the same thing. The jailer said, "What must I do to be saved?" "Believe on Yahshua the Messiah and you shall be saved." A Christian will read *only* that, but you have to read verse 32 — it is the key verse: *He spoke the word* to the jailer and the jailer's family. The jailer had to receive faith; he had to hear what to do; he had to hear more before he could take full identity in Messiah and not live for himself anymore. After that, that jailer no longer lived for himself, but he lived for Messiah and in His body which was begun there. Paul knew what to do with the jailer because he learned baptism by his own experience. And he put everything he learned about baptism into the epistles. Baptism is a distinctive act of faith that clothes one with Messiah and makes him a part of the Body, Acts 22:16, because later he writes all about baptism in the epistles (Gal 3:27; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 6:2-7). Rom 6:2-7 — You can read what Paul learned about baptism from the one who was sent to him — Hannanyah — in Acts 22:12-16. And later he writes all about baptism in the epistles (Gal 3:27; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 6:2-7). Hannanyah was sent to Paul to tell him what to do. Paul didn't *know* what to do. He wanted to have his sins washed away, but he could not do it — he had to receive a word. There was a Body on earth at that time — so whenever there is a Body of believers on earth, you have to receive the Spirit through one who was sent from one of those communities. Likewise, Rom 6:5 (verses 2-6) verifies that salvation occurs by being planted *with* Messiah in His death. If you're not planted, you're not going to grow up. You have to be planted with Him in His death so you can have a resurrection like His. Remember that. If you died a death like Him you'll live a life like Him. You are born again, sprouting up to a *new life*. We didn't just come into the community, struggling along without any faith, but we came into newness of life, shedding the

old life when we died. But if you didn't die, you still have your old life and you are living by your old life — you don't have a new life to live by. Understand how important baptism is.

Another thing: *Mt 28:19* — Your Bible may say *teach* — "they were teaching them how to become disciples through the word of God," (The KJV says *teach*), but the word *teach* there means "*make disciples through the word*." Christians say that it means that someone teaches you and you are baptized later, but this word *teach* here does not mean a teaching like you are receiving now. In *Mt 28:19*, the word *teach* means to instruct them in the gospel so that faith can come to them and then they can be baptized [#3100 in Greek]. Modern translations don't say *teach* anymore, they say *make disciples* through preaching, teaching the good news.

Disciples become disciples by receiving faith by what you said and are baptized into the Body — into the reality of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And *then* in verse 20 it says, "teach them *all* that I commanded you," which means teach them all things after they are baptized. So in verse 19, make disciples by speaking the word to them — then they receive faith by hearing and then they are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and then (verse 20) teach them all that I commanded you. But first they must be baptized into the Body by the one Spirit. In *Eph 2:12* it says, "at one time they were not in the body in Messiah, in the commonwealth of Israel — the new social order, the whole *new* way of existing where the old way of existing was tossed away and the entirely new way of existing has come, the commonwealth of Israel where all the wealth is shared equally amongst the members, and all are receiving the same laws or constitution. We were once outside of that without hope and without God in the world, but now we've come into the new society, and baptism provided our entrance *into* the Body so we could be planted with Messiah in order that we would share His resurrection — a new life.

After you read *Rom 6:3*, there should be no mistake about what baptism is — it is the entry into the Body. You have to walk through that door by faith.

To recapture, in *Mk 16:16* it is written in a way that gives us understanding that whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. (*Believe* means to rely on with all your personality, entirely trust in, lean on, rely upon.) He who does not believe will be condemned whether he is baptized or not, but *especially* if he is baptized and he doesn't believe. That seals your fate, unless somehow you repent and believe and are baptized, since the first baptism wasn't solid. But if you go on in that pretense, you will be condemned to the second death — all you did was brought the Body down, destroyed the Body, you were working against the Body. All who come in over the wall are thieves and robbers and go to the second death. Whoever believes *not* after having heard is condemned (*Jn 3:18*) — judged already. There is a judgment *already* rendered after you've heard and did not believe, especially if they heard and didn't believe but yet they

were baptized and tear the Body down continually because we are always having to contend with them. We always are trying to have hope for them but there is no hope. They perish.

We have to let people know what a serious thing it is to lie when you say you believe with all your heart that God raised Yahshua from the dead and yet not really believe it. If they lie in their confession and say that they believe it, it wasn't the Holy Spirit who made them say it, it was deception. These people are thieves and robbers. They are (Jn 15:5-8) unproductive — they don't produce the much fruit that *proves* that they are disciples, that they really have made that crossover, from death into life — they don't have the proof in Jn 15:8,7,6,5. Who's going to give much fruit? You can tie verse 5 with verse 8. If you are abiding in Him, you'll produce much fruit.

If you are not abiding in Him you are unproductive and you will be a liability in the Body. And then, Rom 8:7, "the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God, it *cannot* be subjected to God or His Son." So here they are in the Body and they cannot be submitted to Messiah. For this reason they are unproductive, always causing disturbances in the Body — *always*. Certainly we are all going to cause some type of disturbances, to some degree, in the beginning. That's why we cannot go and yank up what we think are tares. We don't know which are tares and which are wheat since we all make *mistakes*. But as we grow and grow (Mt 13), it is revealed who are tares and who are wheat. And in Rom 8:14 it says the sons of God are revealed by who is being led by the Spirit. So if we are led by the Spirit, then we know we are sons of God. If we are always being led here and there, causing confusion, not coordinated, causing discord, we are not being a son of God. It's simple to understand. God is revealing these things to us. So if you are always going off on your own, then you know you are not being led by the Spirit which leads you to being one, in unity, submissive, in harmony. In many counselors there is safety.

1 Jn 3:23,24 — I have gone over these verses over and over again so they will be written in your heart because they are the essential things that we have to know and understand. We have to believe as He commanded and we have to love as He commanded. These two things work together. And we know we are of the truth because of the Spirit He has given to us. We *know* with certainty, there is no doubt because of the Spirit he has given to us. We would *die* for Him — no matter what. If we have Him as our foundation stone, then all the pressure we are taking will go down to Him. We, alone, cannot take the pressure, but the foundation can take the pressure. We have to take the pressure and give thanks that He's the rock.

Nahaliel: Mk 16:16 — One time I heard that those who believe enough to be baptized and die believe enough to enter the water. Moses was there with that rod and the wind came and the walls of water it was maybe 10 km wide and they had to walk through. There were those who were afraid and didn't trust in Moses. It

was a mixed multitude. Those who believed in Moses and trusted him, they were baptized into him. Imagine yourself, 10 meters of water on each side, walking through it. It was more than a million people, animals too and baggage. Imagine the panic that might come over you — and you would turn and run back. But those who believed and trusted, they were delivered to the other side, they were baptized into him. And we who are baptized into this Body here, we live our baptism. We are walking between these walls of water now — we live our baptism. We are trusting our lives into His hands as they did to Moses — going through our *Red Sea* in a sense. We believe unto death.

David Derush: Faith comes through hearing. That guard in the prison heard because they spoke the word of Messiah. If we are not living the word, expressing the word in our lives, people cannot hear. We have to speak the word of Messiah, especially the words that come to our hearts through faith. Through baptism you are going to die to your old life and live for Him and fulfill His purpose.

Lev Amatz: The greatest condemnation is those who say they believe but are not truly baptized. They were blind — they said they believe.

Nahaliel: The judgment remains on them because they're not washed. Jn 9:49 — He doesn't come in and participate in the *flow* of the Spirit.

Ha-emeq: We were talking about Mt 21 the other day about our Master. He was hungry. He was walking along and he went to a fig tree and there was no fruit on it and so He cursed the tree and it dried up right there. I wondered why did He do that so quick? But when that faith that comes to us comes, it causes us to be able to produce fruit — it is natural, it is going to produce fruit. What touched me was that Yahshua was hungry and walking along. He's the creator of the whole universe, and He reached out to get a fig and there was no fruit behind those leaves. By the leaves it looked like there was fruit, but there was none. And it's the same way now. He wants faith on the earth, He wants true faith, not just people getting wet and saying good words for a while. But He wants true faith. If there wasn't true faith, we would fill up with people like the ones Yoneq was talking about, but then our Master would come and He's hungry and there wouldn't be any fruit behind the leaves.

There are things that keep us from producing fruit in our lives and our Master is faithful to cut them off and throw them into the fire. We need to have true faith so when He comes and walks among us He can pick something real and He can eat it and be satisfied. He prophesied way ahead that there was going to be a tree that He was going to get some real fruit off of (Isa 27:2-6). This is the true faith we need to have so we can pass it on and produce real fruit. Our Father is faithful to cut off through circumstances those who cannot produce real fruit. There is going to be a tree which is going to produce fruit that He can eat and it will satisfy His hunger.

It's like all the figs on that tree are united to the vine, the main trunk, receiving the sap. All the figs are good. There are no good and bad figs. The fruit of the Spirit is what makes the Body a harmonious one, edible. All the fruits is what makes the Body so harmonious — with

love, joy... self control — all these things. That's what the Holy Spirit teaches. It produces that luscious fruit and 'the world will know that you sent Me' when there are figs on the tree.

That particular kind of a fig tree produces figs and leaves at the same time. Some fig trees produce one first and then the other, but that fig tree, by having leaves, was saying, "I have fruit, I'm so good, look at me." But then when you go to get a fig, its not there. It makes a profession without fruit. But our Father desires *edible* fruit. When that happens, our Master will be returning very soon.

Yadutan: Baptism is a declaration of total dependence as if you are grafted into this tree and you depend totally on the life that comes from that tree. Rom 5 — He already poured that love into us. If we are really connected into that tree we already have that sap in us and we are going to produce fruit and this fruit this love we have for our brothers 5 got 5 more 10 got 10 more our Father wants us to give ourselves totally to Him the more we give ourselves totally to Him, the more we will be saved the more things He will pull out of us. He saved our spirit and now He is saving our soul. This is the Body. It is so incredible how He made it and how He is breaking our hearts.

Just remember, those leaves are saying, "I have fellowship with Him," but you, for example, are not patient with your brothers. It means you (1 Jn 1:6) lie and do not practice the truth. You are walking in darkness. You have profession but you don't have proof, evidence. The fruit is evidence of being connected to the vine. That's why the kingdom was taken away from old Israel and given to a nation who would produce the fruit of it. It has been given to us until we accomplish the effect of having that fruit which is the binding of Satan and that tree is going to go over the whole world and spread its branches over into the new age (Mt 13:31).

The tree is growing in this age and we are some of the birds in it, but in the next age all of the birds are going to be in it. We are the first fruits and all the fruit is going to come in in the next age (Eze 17:23).

When our Master was a boy, he listened to things and didn't get distracted. When He was 8 and 9 years old He listened and didn't get distracted. He wanted to hear. At 10 He listened, and at 11 He listened, and at 12 He listened, and when He was 13 He went into the temple and *astonished* the scholars with His understanding. Our children can be the same way.

We have to be so in tune with the Holy Spirit to function in the Body. Get council before you speak to outsiders. We need to cry out for wisdom. If you don't you are always going to stumble and make people stumble and make enemies for us. Let's be wise, very wise. Defer to other people who have more wisdom than you. Don't think highly of your words. You have to learn when to speak and when not to speak. We grow, every day, we grow in wisdom, understanding, knowledge, truth — by hearing, because we speak the truth to one another and grow up into the head in every aspect of our being. How many aspects do we have? The whole

Body grows up in our mercy, in our love, in our peace, in our patience... in everything we grow up to express the full stature of Yahshua.