

## Believing and Baptism

In Mt 28:19-20 our Master told his disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to *observe all that I commanded you...*”

Disciples are made through baptism into the Body of Messiah. Disciples are baptized into His death, to be raised into His likeness (Rom 6:4-5). There is no other place on earth to be raised *in His likeness* outside of being baptized into the *reality* of Yahshua the Messiah. The Body of Messiah, where His Spirit dwells, is the “reality” of Yahshua the Messiah on earth. Once Yahshua ascended into heaven, and was seated at the right hand of the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to form His Body on earth. And in this place, disciples are brought through the gate of baptism into His Body.

*Belief and Baptism* are one and the same as Faith (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41). As Acts 2:38 says, with 1 Pet 3:21, “Baptism now saves you.” The believer is “saved” when he is “immersed” into Messiah. A person is baptized when he is absolutely identified with the One who has delivered him (Col 1:13). But he who believes not is not baptized (Mk 16:16), but is *judged already* (Jn 3:18) for he has heard (Jn 13:20) and rejected (not obeyed) the word. Jn 3:36 says whoever does not *obey* has not believed. This is the same as in Lk 10:16, meaning to *listen* (believe) is what they did when Peter spoke to them in Acts 2:38. One does not baptize himself, but one is baptized by the Body (or a Body in whom Messiah is dwelling). There the Holy Spirit is passed onto the one who is baptized (1 Cor 10:2; 12:13; Gal 3:27; Rom 6:2-11).

Baptism is for the remission of one’s sins. Baptism is faith. It is not separate from faith. Whoever *believes* and is *baptized* will be saved and will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. But to whom does He give the gift of His Holy Spirit? None except those who are baptized into the salvation of Messiah’s Body (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21). You can’t be forgiven if you can’t get *into Him* and you can’t get into Him without

being forgiven, without *entering Him* by “immersion” into the Body of Messiah (Gal 3:27-29). That is why Peter said, “Baptism now saves you.” You have to enter the “ark” to be truly saved. Baptism is the only way one can get into His Body (Eph 1:13; 4:4-6).

Acts 2 presents baptism as the *only way* into Messiah for salvation (Jn 3:15). No one is baptized into Messiah or “saved” without *faith* (Acts 1:5-10; 11:14; 1 Cor 12:13; Acts 16:31-34; Mk 8:35), whatever one’s race, ethnic or social origins. Faith is the “persuasion” by God by which a person can hear and respond to the good news. All His sons are integrated into one *organism* called the Body of Messiah (Gal 3:26-29). *Integrate* means to bring one into a “whole nation” (as Gal 3:28 and Col 3:10-11 is witnessed in the Edah). There we are unified (Jn 13:34; 17:23). This is what it means to be “joined” to Messiah (1 Cor 6:17), to unite (open to all) as an outcome or expression of oneness and integration (Acts 2:39,44).

Whoever *believes is baptized* and whoever is baptized is “saved” (or given the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:38,41,42). Acts 16:31-32 is essential as was Acts 2:40-41; 16:32-33. We then must speak the word of the Master in *His place* (or on His behalf) as His *representatives* to those in the tribal area of Yoceph (Mt 10:41; Jn 7:17-18). Therefore, “faith” (persuasion (Acts 26:28; 2 Cor 5:11) comes by “hearing” (Rom 10:17; Jn 13:20; Acts 8:31,36-37; Rom 10:9-10; Acts 8:26-39). Acts 11:16-17 says the “same gift” was given to them through *believing and baptism*. Acts 11:15 makes it clear that they did not receive or were not sealed with Holy Spirit *until* baptism (Acts 11:16-17). The Holy Spirit came *upon* them, but was not yet *in* them. They were not yet sealed with Him until their baptism (Acts 10:47-48). Acts 26:20 shows how the Gentiles were persuaded (3982, 4102) and Rom 10:17 declares that faith comes by *hearing* (2 Cor 5:11 in the NKJV, #3982, persuasion, is where #4102, faith comes from).