

FOUNDATION ONE

SALVATION AND BAPTISM IN WATER

NEW NATURE CHURCH

FOUNDATION ONE

VISION

Every believer is able to share the basic gospel with another person and guide this person into salvation and the Kingdom, including Baptism in water and the Holy Spirit. This happens regularly and all believers are empowered to make and Baptise new disciples, in fact this regularly happen in homes and in our everyday lives!

SIN ENTERS THE WORLD

Let's start at the beginning. In Genesis 2:4-25 God creates the world, including Man and Woman. God walks with Adam and Eve in the garden every day because his desire is for intimate relationship with them. We can keep coming back to this truth in our own lives, knowing that God's original plan was to be with us and have deep connection with us. This truth has never changed and is still the same today.

He places Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to work and care for the garden. He provides many plants for food. In the middle of the garden he plants The Tree of Life and The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He commands them not to eat from this second tree or they will surely die.

Why would God do this? Surely if he did not want sin he would not provide an option to sin. The answer is simple: without a choice to choose to obey God there is no love on our behalf.

God is all about love. John 3:16 makes this very clear. 1 John 4:8 and 16 both declare that "God is love". The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was necessary as without an option to disobey God, Adam and Eve, and all mankind, would have simply been robots: slaves without a choice to love God.

In Genesis 3 the serpent (satan) tempts Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and sin enters the world. They are sent from the garden and both mankind and the earth is cursed. Simply put, sin is anything which is contrary to God's character. 1 John 1:5 "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

In Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers God then explains what sin is through the Law which he gives to a man named Moses. This acts as a temporary means of dealing with sin because sin must be paid for to make a person clean and righteous and able to stand before God.

Finally, at the appointed time, God sent Jesus to be a perfect sacrifice for sin once and for all. He lived as a perfect man with no sin, although he was tempted in every way just like us. His death on the cross paid for sin once and for all and his resurrection brings a brand new life to every believer where we are no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness. We get to have our intimate relationship with God restored, just like it was for Adam and Eve in the Garden.

FOUNDATION ONE

HOW AM I SAVED?

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me. (Jesus)

John 1:12

To those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Being saved is a gift we receive by faith, believing. Read Romans 10:13 and John 3:16.



Being saved is a gift we receive by faith, believing. Believing is more than simply thinking that God exists. We need to acknowledge our sin, repent and profess Jesus as Lord. Closely following this declaration of faith we need to be baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's go over all of these elements one step at a time.

SAVED FROM SIN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

What is sin? Sin is anything that is against who God is. For example, God is the truth and he always tells the truth, he never lies (Read Numbers 23:19) so any lying is sin. Sin is explained in many parts of the bible. You may like to read these verses for some examples, Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5-6, Matthew 25:31-46.

God loves us so much that he has made a way for us to be free from sin and alive to God's righteousness through faith in Jesus. Read John 3:16 -17 and Romans 2:4.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

You might also like to read John 6:47-48, Romans 5:8 and Romans 6:23.

FOUNDATION ONE

REPENTANCE

In the following verses we see that no matter how good we think we are, when our measure is God's glory and goodness, we have all sinned. [Romans 3:23](#), For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We need to repent and declare Jesus is the Lord (king/ruler) of our lives. Repenting is firstly saying we are sorry and then also turning around and walking in the opposite direction from our sins. For example, "I am sorry for all of my lying I am going to tell the truth always from now on."

[Acts 2:38](#)

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

[Matthew 4:17](#)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

You might also like to read [2 Peter 3:8-9](#) and [Luke 5:32](#).

PROFESS WITH OUR MOUTH JESUS IS LORD

Read [Romans 10:9-13](#)

We need to actually declare that Jesus is the Lord of our life now. Lord actually means the king or the ruler. It is one thing to turn away from our sin, but we need to now give our lives over to Jesus. In our culture we are told that we are the ones who rule our own lives. The truth is that we were made to have someone so much wiser than us being the King of our lives. It's contrary to the world's thinking, but God actually has better plans for us than we do, so we need to acknowledge who Jesus really is and watch as our lives become so much more meaningful and fruitful with Him.

FOUNDATION ONE

BEING BORN AGAIN?

Being born again is a term used by many Christians to describe being saved by Jesus, but what does it actually mean and where does this saying come from?

John 3:1-7

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again’.

Here we read that being born again allows us to enter the Kingdom of God.



BAPTISM IN WATER AT SALVATION

Baptism in water is part of entering into the Kingdom of God. When we believe we are saved but something powerful takes place when believers are baptised in water. In Acts 2 when Peter addresses the crowd he directs them to “Repent and be baptised every one of you, in the name of the Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” In Acts 2:41 it states that “Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

FOUNDATION ONE

Jesus was also Baptised,

Read Matthew 4:13-17.

It is clear from the beginning of the early church that baptism took place when people believed, it was a crucial part of becoming a born again believer. Read Acts 8:26-40, a story about one a man Philip who shares the gospel with a Eunuch. The Eunuch himself exclaims “[Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?](#)” Clearly, in sharing the gospel of Jesus with the Eunuch, Philip had explained water baptism as part of becoming a disciple of Jesus. It appears that this satisfied the Holy Spirit too, as immediately after the Eunuch was baptised the Spirit literally took Philip away and he appeared in another place. It is like the Spirit said, “Good, job's done. This man is now in the Kingdom of God. Now come over here for the next assignment.”

“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

In another part of the bible we read that Paul and Silas are in prison for preaching about Jesus.

Read Acts 16:30-33.

Paul and Silas declare that the jailer must “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” And after the jailer washes their wounds he and his household are immediately baptised.

FOUNDATION ONE

BAPTISM IS MORE THAN SYMBOLIC

Baptism is both symbolic and a powerful Spiritual transformation.

Read Romans 6:1-14.

Paul explains that as believers in Jesus we are literally dead to sin. He declares that through Baptism we are buried with Christ, that our old self has been crucified with Christ. He declares that now we are raised from the dead to live a new life, sin has been done away with and rendered powerless. Instead we are now alive to God and His righteousness.

What a powerful transformation! As we go under the water it's like a burial where our old life and all of our sinful ways are killed. When we come up out of the water we are literally new creations with a new life free from sin and living righteous with Christ. (We will explore more of living from righteousness in Foundation 3.)



FOUNDATION ONE

In baptism we identify and take part in Jesus death and resurrection and in doing so we have union (are joined) with Christ - becoming one with him. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:26-27

Colossians 2:12, Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.



THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO BAPTISM

Often the Old Testament is a foreshadow of the New Testament, in which we now live. What happened physically under the old covenant, now happens spiritually under the new. For example, let's begin by looking at the last plague to hit Egypt (Exodus Ch.11-15). We see the first born being killed by the angel of death unless there was the blood of a lamb sprinkled across the mantle and frame of your door way (a picture of Christ's blood, the lamb that was slain, providing for us an escape from everlasting torment). Later we then see the Israelite's confronted by the Red Sea (after Pharaoh had let them go). Moses (their leader) is commanded by God to raise his staff into the air, and as he does the sea parts and they cross though on dry land (a picture of water baptism). Note that the whole Egyptian army is then drowned (as they gave chase), in the same sea that the Israelite's pass through safely. And who were Egyptian army? The very thing that enslaved and kept the Israelite's captive. So it is when we are baptised, the demonic powers of hell that have kept us captive and enslaved are broken off of our lives and spiritually drowned, severing the hold they once had over us.

FOUNDATION ONE

WHO CAN BAPTISE?

Any believer who has been baptised can baptise. Acts 2:41 “Those who accepted his message were Baptised and about 3000 were added to their number that day”.

How many disciples were involved in Baptising all 3000? Even with the 12 Apostles this would have been a mammoth task! It is more likely that at least the 120 disciples whom Peter addresses in Acts 1:15 were part of baptising the 3000 new disciples on this day.

Acts 8:12 - Philip preached in Samaria and they were Baptised.

Acts 8:38 - Philip Baptises the Eunuch.

Acts 10:44-48 - At the Centurion's house Peter and the other believers were there to Baptise the new disciples.

Acts 19:4-6 - Paul Baptises 12 believers in Ephesus.

1 Cor 1:13-17 - Paul makes a point in these verses of saying that he was not the one who Baptised believers in Corinth. So other people Baptised in Corinth.

Baptism can be done anywhere where there is water. Although traditionally in Western Culture most baptisms occur in a Church building during a church service, Baptisms are not limited to this. They can occur in a bath tub, a swimming pool, river, lake, dam - basically anywhere there is water and a disciple to Baptise the new believer.

Like with anything which we learn it is good to have someone show us how to baptise and help us to do it, however if this is not possible we do have enough guidance in the bible and the Holy Spirit will guide us and teach us too.

REFLECTION

God made a way for us to be living a life of relationship with him, just like he first intended for Adam and Eve. Jesus took our sin on the cross and now we can stand without sin before God. Many believers stop here, they repent for their sins and acknowledge their need for God, but don't then get to receive the fullness of what God has for them. We need to die to our old life and receive our new life through baptism. If we don't do this we continue to keep trying to live a righteous life, but from within our old dirty bodies and then wonder why we keep falling into sin.



Search google for "Reiki master meets Jesus" or click [here](#) for a powerful salvation testimony.