

The call to make disciples running the race?

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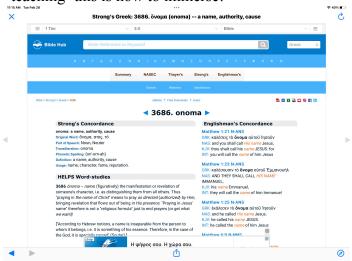


The offer to get out of hell and go to heaven?

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the **name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.""

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

- *disciple=devoted follower
- *baptize= immerse into
- *in the name= in the character of...
- *teaching=this is how to immerse!



"And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim **the gospel** to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16 ESV

"Then he opened their minds to **understand the Scriptures**, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that **repentance for the** forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed **in his name** to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are **witnesses** of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.""

Luke 24:45-49 ESV

*It is important to note that forgiveness is not a one time event! As we accept the teachings of our Lord it leads us to repent and receive forgiveness for living contrary to those teachings and continue in the way that pleases God.

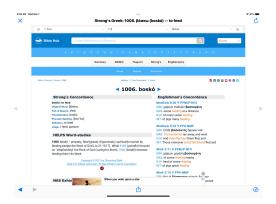
Personal Commission of Peter:

"Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me.""

John 21:10, 15-19 ESV

*Peter was restored personally as a disciple and to go make disciples as he was originally instructed.

*feed



Book of Acts: proof of The Great Commission

"When they had preached the gospel to that city and had **made many disciples**, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the **souls of the disciples**, encouraging them to **continue in the faith**, and saying that **through** many tribulations we must enter **the kingdom** of God."

Acts 14:21-22 ESV

Apostle Pauls Great Commission:

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and **the ministry** that I **received** from the Lord Jesus, to **testify** to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about **proclaiming the kingdom** will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the **whole counsel** of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **care for the church** of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away **the disciples** after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his **grace**, which **is able** to build you up and to give you **the inheritance** among all those **who are sanctified**." Acts 20:24-32 ESV

"And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to **appoint you as a servant** and **witness** to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am **sending you** to open their eyes, **so that** they may **turn** from darkness to light **and** from the power of Satan to God, that they **may receive** forgiveness of sins **and** a place among those who are **sanctified** by faith in me."

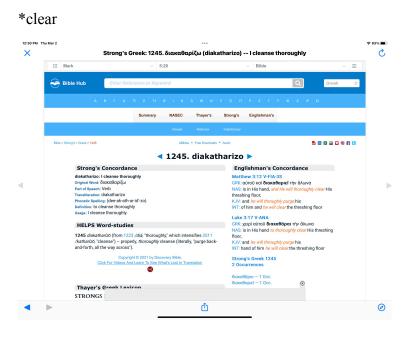
Acts 26:14-18 ESV

What is the deeper meaning behind baptism?

""I baptize you with **water** for repentance, **but** he who is coming after me is **mightier** than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He** will **baptize** you with the **Holy Spirit** <u>and</u> **fire**. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will **clear** his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with **unquenchable** fire.""

Matthew 3:11-12 ESV

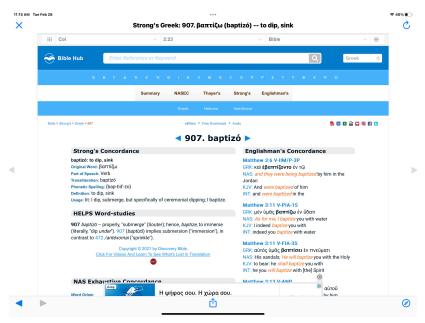
*water to rinse the outside of our skin was not near enough to fulfill Gods promise of restoration. We must like a forest that undergoes a fire that cleanses it from all disease be restored internally by the fire of the Holy Spirit. I wish this was a one and done method but it is a process of dying to self and growing up in the knowledge of God.



*note: Fire was illustrated by God's fire burning continuously at the entrance of the Tabernacle where the Priests made sweet savor offerings to Him.

*note: The Holy Spirit came in a tongue of fire signifying the very words of God being a refining fire inside of us giving spark to our faith! Repentance is responding to the convicting fire of the word of God through the Holy Spirit.

*baptize



"Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be **baptized with the baptism** that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, **Ye shall** drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."

Matthew 20:20-23 KJV

"I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a **baptism** to be baptized with; and how am I straitened **till it be accomplished!**"

Luke 12:49-50 KJV

"John answered them, saying, I **baptize** with **water**: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which **taketh away** the sin of the world. 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**."

John 1:26-27, 29, 33 KJV

*key: It is actually the Holy Spirits job to "take away" our sin through sanctification! of things; to take out of the way, destroy: χειρόγραφον, Colossians 2:14; cause to cease: τήν κρίσιν, Acts 8:33 (Isaiah 53:8). (Compare: ἀπαίρω, ἐξαίρω, ἐπαίρω, μεταίρω, συναίρω, ὑπεραίρω.)



*Jesus took away the Power of sin over us by giving us the Holy Spirit, so that we are no longer slaves of sin but of righteousness!

"Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the **standard of teaching** to which **you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so **now** present your members as slaves to righteousness **leading to sanctification**."

Romans 6:16-19 ESV

"For **this** is the will of God, even **your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of **you should** know how to possess his vessel **in sanctification** and **honor**;" 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 KJV

"For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **in order** that the righteous requirement of the law **might be** fulfilled in us, **who walk** not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **For those** who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those** who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:2-5 ESV

Why physical water?

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for **thus it is fitting** for us to **fulfill all righteousness**." Then he consented."

Matthew 3:13-15 ESV

*The need for water baptism today would also be for the same reasons. The water on the outside of the skin has no power over the flesh but the Holy Spirit through the word of God does!

*note: the reason why the apostles still baptized with water was to "fulfill all righteousness" with the Jews! Just like Paul said that external circumcision of the flesh was of no value against the flesh but circumcised Timothy anyway as a testimony to the Jews so they would hear him! (becoming all things to all people)

*note: Jesus after fulfilling all righteousness with water baptism was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for the intro into spirit baptism!

"because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely **through water**. **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, **now** saves you, **not** as a removal of dirt from the body **but** as an appeal to God for a **good conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 3:20-21 ESV

The baptism of the Spirit also supplied the needed power to be witnesses:

"and, being assembled together with them, **commanded** them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait** for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; **but ye** shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 1:4-5 KJV

"And there appeared unto them cloven **tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. And they were **all filled** with the Holy Ghost, and **began to speak** with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:3-4 KJV

"But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man **is the power** of God that is called Great." But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed,

and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 8:9-10, 12-16 ESV

"As I began to speak, the **Holy Spirit fell on them** just as on us at the beginning. And I **remembered** the word of the Lord, how he said, '**John baptized with water**, **but you** will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.""

Acts 11:15-18 ESV

*A great example of the necessity of more than water for a repentance that leads to life!

"And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all."

Acts 19:1-4, 6-7 ESV

Key teaching to the Church followers of Christ:

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who **have been baptized** into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, **in order** that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness** of life."

Romans 6:1-4 ESV

"For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

1 Corinthians 1:17 ESV

*Key: it is the good news of Christs teaching that has the power not water!

Key to the realization that just because you were baptized doesn't guarantee that you will live a life pleasing to God:

"For I do not want you to be **unaware**, brothers, that our fathers were **all** under the cloud, and **all** passed through the sea, and **all** were **baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and **all** ate the same spiritual food, and **all** drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the **Rock was Christ**. Nevertheless, with **most of them** God was **not pleased**, for they were **overthrown** in the wilderness."

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 ESV

"For in one Spirit we were **all baptized** into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and **all** were made to drink of one Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV

"Now **these things** took place **as examples <u>for us</u>**, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." **We must not** indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. **We must not** put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, Now **these things** happened to them **as an example**, but they were written down **for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come. **Therefore** let anyone who **thinks** that he stands take heed **lest he fall**. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted **beyond** your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the **way of escape**, that you may be able to **endure** it."

1 Corinthians 10:6-9, 11-13 ESV

"For **as many** of you as were **baptized** into Christ have **put on** Christ." Galatians 3:27 ESV

<u>Final thoughts:</u> Jesus went out of His way to break the sabbath, counter washing regulations in front of the religious authorities, and claim equality with God that drove everyone mad. He accused leaders of cleaning the outside but keeping the inside filthy. Paul says he guarantees us that circumcision of the flesh has no benefit in pleasing God and that he didn't come to baptize with water because it doesn't reach the heart. Baptism by water, besides being a symbol of inner conversion and an outward proclamation to others of a decision you made, has absolutely no power to make you a faithful disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Questions for contemplation:

- 1. Why do you think they call it the "great" commission?
- 2. Have you ever pondered why the emphasis is always on obedience and faithfulness which is why Jesus exclusively taught stories and lessons on how to please His Father and receive a kingdom?
- 3. If the main instructions to His Apostles was to go and make disciplined followers which shows true all through the book of acts, where does the teaching just to believe in Jesus and you get to go to heaven fit in?
- 4. Has water on the skin or fire in your belly(Holy Spirit) caused you to become a true disciple of Jesus? Explain.
- 5. Does the call to discipleship look more like the movie "gladiator" to you or "driving miss daisy"? What movie/book would you compare it to and why?

^{*}Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

