

# Baptism

01/06

**“Baptism is a sign which is fixed, and immovable.”** (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 197-198)

## BORN VS. BORN AGAIN STATISTICS

Population experts estimate that there are about 122 million live births each year in the world. That breaks down to the following rate:

Births per second - 4  
Births per minute - 232

Births per hour - 13,927  
Births per day - 334,247

## Baptism Defined

(BD 618; John 3:3-5; 3 Nephi 7:25)

**01 – “[T]he word baptize is derived from the Greek verb ‘**baptiso**,’ and means to immerse or overwhelm....”** (Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, September 1842)

**02 – “You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of the remission of sins and getting of the Holy Ghost. Baptism by water is but half a baptism, and is good for nothing without the other half—that is, the baptism of the Holy Ghost.”** (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 314)

**03 – “Sins are remitted not in the waters of baptism, as we say in speaking figuratively, but when we receive the Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Spirit of God that erases carnality and brings us into a state of righteousness. We become clean when we actually receive the fellowship and companionship of the Holy Ghost.”** (Bruce R. McConkie, *New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, pg. 290)

**04 – “Water baptism is only a preparatory cleansing of the believing penitent...whereas, the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost cleanses more thoroughly, by renewing the inner man, and by purifying the affections, desires, and thoughts which have long been habituated in the impure ways of sin. Without the aid of the Holy Ghost, a person would have but very little power to change his mind, at once, from its habituated course, and to walk in newness of life.... So great is the force of habit, that he would, with out being renewed by the Holy Ghost, be easily overcome, and contaminated again with sin. Hence, it is infinitely important that the affections and desires should be, in a measure, changed and renewed, so as to him to hate that which he before loved, and to love that which he before hated. To thus renew the mind of man is the work of the Holy Ghost.”** (Orson Pratt, *The Holy Spirit*, pg. 56-57)

## With Regard to Requirements of the Ordinance

(Moroni 8:25; Moroni 6:1-3; Mosiah 18:8-10; D&C 20:37)

**05 – “No person can be properly baptized unless he has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has repented of his sins, with a repentance that need not be repented of.”** (Joseph F. Smith, *Improvement Era*, January 1911, pg. 266)

**06 – “Broken Heart = One that is humble; one that is touched by the Spirit of the Lord and which is willing to abide in all the covenants and the obligations which the gospel entails.”** (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Religious Truths Defined*, pg. 273)

**07 – “Contrite Spirit = Deep sorrow for sin, a realization of the nature of wrong doing, and a desire for forgiveness.... A contrite spirit is essential to salvation.”** (Joseph Fielding Smith, *CR*, October 1941, pg. 93)

## With Regard to Regulations of the Ordinance

(3 Nephi 11:18-28; D&C 20:68-74)

## **Baptism**

### **Age of Accountability - (D&C 20:71; D&C 68:25, 27)**

8 Illustrated in Symbolism - (JST Genesis 17:1; 1 Nephi 17:4-5; Mosiah 23:3-4; Ether 3:1)

**08** – “There is no infant or child that has died before arriving at the years of accountability, but what is redeemed, and is therefore entirely beyond the tormented of hell, to use a sectarian term. And any doctrine, such as the sprinkling of infants, or any religious rite for little children, is of no effect whatever, neither in this world nor in the world to come. It is a man-made doctrine, and therefore not ordained of God; and I will defy any man to find in any of the records of divine truth any ordinance instituted for the salvation of little innocent children; it would be unnecessary on the face of it, and the only thing that can be found is where Jesus took the little ones in his arms and blessed them, which is and would be perfectly right to do according to the order of God. But the sprinkling of infants or the doctrine that infants go to hell under any circumstances, is a doctrine ordained of man and not of God, and is therefore of no avail and entirely wrong and displeasing in the sight of God..” (Wilford Woodruff, *JD*, 23:126)

### **Infant Baptism - (Mosiah 15:25; Moroni 8:8-11; D&C 137:10)**

Established at the Council of Carthage XVI (418 AD)

(James E. Talmage, *The Great Apostasy*, pg.119)

**09** – “**They need no baptism and never will, for our lord has performed all the work necessary for them.**” Will automatically inherit the Celestial kingdom, [And exaltation - Bruce R. McConkie, *MD*, pg. 674] but must still comply with the requirements. (Joseph Fielding Smith, *DS*, 2:54)

### **Authentic Authority - (D&C 13:1)**

**10** – “**Baptism without divine authority is not valid. It is a symbol of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and must be done in the likeness thereof, by one commissioned of God, in the manner prescribed, otherwise it is illegal and will not be accepted by Him, nor will it effect a remission of sins....**” (Joseph F. Smith, *JD*, 19:190)

### **Administered Through Ordained Wording - (D&C 18:29-30; 3 Nephi 24:25; D&C 20:72-74)**

### **Administered Through Immersion - (1 Peter 3:20-21)**

### **Improper Baptism - (D&C 123:7-8)**

Sprinkling was authorized by Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (248 AD)  
(James E. Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, 486)

### **Administered Through the Laying on of Hands - (D&C 33:15; D&C 49:12-14)**

## **Significant Symbolism Instituted With Respect to the Ordinance**

### **Death, Burial, & Resurrection - (D&C 76:51; D&C 128:12-13; Romans 6:3-5)**

### **Blood, Water, & Spirit/Birth - (1 John 5:6-9; Moses 6:59–60)**

The Very Elements or Witnessing Parts of the Atonement = Blood, Water, Spirit

**11** – “**It is common among us to say that baptisms are performed in similitude of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and that they should therefore be performed by immersion. This is true, but it is an oversimplification and tells only part of the story. Baptism is a new birth; it is symbolical of our new life in the kingdom of God, which new birth is a living reality because of the shedding of the blood of Christ, or in other words because of his death, burial and resurrection. The new birth grows out of the atonement wrought by our Lord; the newness of life comes to the repentant sinner because he has bowed to the will of the Lord; and has been immersed in water by a legal administrator.**” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Promised Messiah*, pg. 389-390)

**12** – “**Justification = The ratification or approval of the performances entered into.**” (Bruce R. McConkie, *MD*,

## **Baptism**

pg. 408)

**13 – “Sanctification = To become clean, pure, and spotless; a state of attended saintliness.”** (Bruce R. McConkie, *MD*, pg. 675)

### ***Born Again - (John 3:7; Mosiah 27:25; Alma 7:14)***

3 days and 3 nights - Immersed in Water - Blood is Shed in Your Behalf - Father Furnishes A Given Name - Gifts are Received

### **Required Ordinance**

(John 3:3-5, D&C 84:74; A of F #4)

**14 – “Being born again, comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances.”** (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 162)

### ***Required for Membership in God’s Church - (D&C 22:1-4)***

### ***Required for the Gift of the Holy Ghost - (A of F #4)***

**15 – “The gift of the Holy Ghost** is enjoyed only by those who have been baptized and confirmed member of the Church.” (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 199)

### ***Required for Spirit World Paradise - (D&C 137:6; D&C 138:33)***

**16 – “All spirits of men after death return to the spirit world. There, as I understand it, the righteous—meaning those who have been baptized and who have been faithful—are gathered in one part and all the others in another part of the spirit world.”** (Joseph Fielding Smith, *DS*, 2:230)

### ***Required for the Celestial Kingdom - (2 Nephi 9:23, John 3:3-5, 3 Nephi 11:33, 38)***

**17 – “Baptism is a sign** to God, to angels, and to heaven that we do the will of God, and there is no other way beneath the heavens whereby God hath ordained for man to come to Him to be saved, and **enter into the Kingdom of God**, except faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, and any other course is in vain; then you have the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 198)

**18 – “No man can enter into the kingdom of God except he is born of the water and of the Spirit.** Men may be judged and their bodies lie in the grave until the last resurrection, to come forth and receive of the celestial glory, but no man will receive of the celestial glory except it be through the ordinances of the House of God.” (Wilford Woodruff, *JD*, 19:361)

### **Adam’s Baptism**

(Moses 6:54-56)

**19 – “Every baptismproperly performed by a legal administrator—from Adam to Christ was itself a Messianic prophecy. It bore record of Christ, who was to come, and was so understood by the saints of old....**

**Baptism began with Adam....He was then taught that ‘by the blood ye are sanctified,’ meaning that the cleansing power of baptism rests upon and grows out of the atoning sacrifice of the Only Begotten. That is to say, without the atonement and without the shedding of the blood of God’s Son, neither baptism nor any ordinance would have any efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection of the dead.”** (Bruce R. McConkie, *Promised Messiah*, pg. 386-87)

## **Christ's Baptism**

(2 Nephi 31:5-16)

**20 – “In the former ages of the world, before the Savior came in the flesh, ‘the saints’ were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to come, because there never was any other name whereby men could be saved; and after he came in the flesh and was crucified, risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, that they might be buried in baptism like him, and be raised in glory like him, that as there was but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and father of us all, even so there was but one door to the mansions of bliss. Amen.”** (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 266)

**21 – “If a man gets a fulness of the priesthood of God he has to get it the same way that Jesus Christ obtained it, and that was by keeping all the commandments and obeying all the ordinances of the house of the Lord.”** (Joseph Smith, *TPJS*, pg. 308)

## **The Only Name Whereby Salvation Cometh**

(Mosiah 5:7-12; D&C 38:4)

**22 – “The totality of the scriptures and the teachings of modern prophets show that we are saved by Jesus Christ, through the name of Jesus Christ.”** (Dallin H. Oaks, *His Holy Name*, pg. 73)

**—Taking Upon You the Name of Jesus Christ—**  
(Dallin H. Oak, *His Holy Name*, pg. 64-67)

1 - IDENTIFICATION – A willingness to be identified as a believer in Jesus Christ and a member of His Church

2 - AUTHORITY – A willingness to take our assigned measure of the authority and work of the Savior, accepting and laboring in responsibility.

3 - WILLINGNESS - A willingness to take upon you His name, not to actually take it but only willing to do so, signifies a future event — a declaration of our candidacy for exaltation in the Celestial kingdom (Ephesians 4:13)

## **Quotes for Consideration**

**23 – “Being born again [or converted unto the Lord] is a **gradual thing**, except in a few isolated instances that are so miraculous that they get written up in the scriptures. As far as the generality of members of the Church are concerned, we are born again by degrees, and we are born again to added light and added knowledge and added desires for righteousness as we keep the commandments.”** (Bruce R. McConkie, *Speeches-BYU*, 1976, ‘*Jesus Christ and Him Crucified*,’ pg. 399-401)

**24 – “...we must be cautious as we discuss [the examples of Paul, Alma the Younger, King Lamoni, and Enos]. Though they are real and powerful, they are the exception more than the rule. For every Paul, for every Enos, and for every King Lamoni, **there are hundreds and thousands of people who find the process of repentance much more subtle, much more imperceptible. Day by day they move closer to the Lord, little realizing they are building a godlike life. They live quiet lives of goodness, service, and commitment. They are like the Lamanites, who the Lord said, ‘were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not’** (3 Nephi 9:20).” (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, October 1989, pg. 2-5)**

**25 – “In the full gospel sense, however, conversion is more — far more — than merely changing one's belief from that which is false to that which is true; it is more than the acceptance of the verity of gospel truths, than the acquirement of a testimony. To convert is to change from one status to another, and gospel conversion consists in the transformation of man from his fallen and carnal state to a state of saintliness.**

**A convert is one who...has been born again: where once he was spiritually dead, he has been regenerated to a state of spiritual life...he changes his whole way of life, and the nature and structure of his**

### ***Baptism***

**very being is quickened and changed by the power of the Holy Ghost.”** (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pg. 162)

**26** – “In other words, we in effect sign the everlasting covenant by the ordinance of baptism, and we make its term and conditions binding upon us, and this is what makes us different from the generality of mankind. We receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is the right to the constant companionship of that member of the Godhead. And if we are guided thereby, then the sanctifying, cleansing, purifying, perfecting processes begin to operate in our lives, and in literal reality we become the saints of God, a peculiar and distinct people. That's what happens to us at least, if we keep our covenants—the covenants made in the waters of baptism.” (Bruce R. McConkie, Rulon T. Burton, *We Believe*, ‘Baptism’, ACR (Brisbane) 1976:15, pg. 69)

## Covenants of Baptism

MY COVENANT	SCRIPTURE	GOD'S OATH	SCRIPTURE
01. To have repented of all my sins	D&C 20:37; 4 Nephi 1:1	01. Forgive and forget my sins	D&C 64:7-12
02. To take upon me the name of Christ	D&C 20:37; 2 Nephi 31:11-13	02. Give me the right to be called a Christian or Saint	D&C 18:23-25; Mosiah 3:19
03. To have a broken heart/contrite spirit	D&C 20:37; Moroni 6:2	03. Signs will follow me...	D&C 84:64-73
04. To mourn and comfort others	D&C 20:37; Mosiah 18:9	04. Peace in this life and eternal peace in the world to come	D&C 59:23
05. To care for others and bear their burdens	Mosiah 18:8	05. To give me all things (knowledge, glory, power, joy)	D&C 76:51-55; 93:19-20
06. To receive a 'newness of life' / 'born again' and become a saint	Mosiah 3:19, 27:25-27; John 3:3, 5	06. To be my advocate before the Father	D&C 29:1, 5
07. To keep all God's commandments/ordinances	2 Nephi 31:6-7; Mosiah 18:10	07. To have my name written in the Book of Life	Revelation 20:15; 21:27
08. To always remember and serve only God	D&C 20:37, 77, 79; Mosiah 18:10	08. To have his spirit always with me	D&C 20:77, 79;
09. To be a witness for Christ at all times, in all things, in all places, even unto death	Mosiah 18:9	09. To be my God	Revelation 21:7
10. To enter into his Church or Kingdom	D&C 20:37; John 3:3, 5	10. To be raised in the first resurrection with eternal life	D&C 14:7; 2 Nephi 31:20; D&C 76:64
11. To receive the Holy Ghost	D&C 20:37; Acts 2:37-38	11. Give to me the gift of the Holy Ghost and receive sanctification	D&C 84:64-75
12. To partake of the sacrament and renew your covenant often	D&C 59:9-11; Exodus 12:13-14	12. To keep the covenant valid	D&C 59:8-21