



Of Water and the Spirit

Is it necessary (essential) for one to be baptized in water to be saved?

- Mark 16:16
- Acts 2:38
- Acts 8:35-36, 38-39.
- Acts 10:47-48
- Acts 22:16
- 1 Peter 3:18-21



One not as commonly used

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”

--John 3:5--

View #1: Born of Water

- “Born of water” is used by Jesus to refer to natural birth (with water referring to the amniotic fluid that surrounds the baby in the womb).
 - Nicodemus **was** thinking of a natural birth (v.4), but Jesus is explaining to him how to be “born again” (John 3:3), or “born from above” (YLT).

View #2: Born of Water

- “The ‘water’ mentioned in this verse is not literal physical water but rather the ‘living water’ Jesus promised the woman at the well in John 4:10 and the people in Jerusalem in John 7:37-39. It is the inward purification and renewal produced by the Holy Spirit that brings forth spiritual life to a dead sinner (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Titus 3:5).”
 - From gotquestions.org
- Some even translate it this way: “Unless one is born of water, **even** the Spirit...”

What is the Holy Spirit's role?

- “And when He (Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8).
- That's exactly what He did in the conversions recorded in Acts.
 - Through the preaching of the gospel, which was “by the Holy Spirit” (1 Peter 1:12).
 - “When they **heard** this, they were cut to the heart” (Acts 2:37).

The Life-Giving Power of These Words

- “It is the Spirit who **gives life**; the flesh profits nothing. The **words** that I speak to you are spirit, and they are **life**” (John 6:63).
- “having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, **through the word of God...**” (1 Peter 1:23)
- “Of His own will, He **brought us forth** (“begat us”—KJV) **by the word of truth...**” (James 1:18).

Back to John 3:5

- We'll look at this passage again, and then compare it to three other passages.
- This comparison should help us better understand the role of both **water** and **the Spirit** (and confirm what we've seen in other passages).

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:5			
born of water			
born of the Spirit			
enter into the kingdom Of God			

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

John 3:5	1 Cor. 12:13		
born of water	baptized		
born of Spirit	by one Spirit		
enter into the kingdom Of God	into one body		

Ephesians 5:25-26

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

John 3:5	1 Cor. 12:13	Eph. 5:26	
born of water	baptized	washing of water	
born of Spirit	by one Spirit	by the word	
enter into the kingdom Of God	into one body	sanctify and cleanse	

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5	1 Cor. 12:13	Eph. 5:26	Titus 3:5
born of water	baptized	washing of water	washing of regeneration
born of Spirit	by one Spirit	by the word	renewing of the Holy Spirit
enter into the kingdom Of God	into one body	sanctify and cleanse	saved

The Message to You

- “Why are you waiting? Arise and be **baptized**, and **wash** away your sins...” (Acts 22:16).
- Result: “But you were **washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and **by the Spirit of our God**” (1 Corinthians 6:11).