

Evangelism, Then Salvation, Then Baptism

Understanding the Order in Acts 8:26-40

1. Evangelism

Evangelism is the act of _____ the good news, which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Acts 8:26-35, we read about the conversation Philip had with the Ethiopian eunuch in which he proclaimed the good news that Jesus fulfills the Scripture the Ethiopian man was reading.

Observations about this encounter:

1. _____ had been at work (evidence that God desired this man be saved).
2. _____ took place between the believer and the unbeliever.
3. The unbeliever was told how Jesus fulfilled the _____ of Isaiah 53.
 - a. Jesus died to _____ the sins of others (Is. 53:4-10a, 12b)
 - b. Jesus _____ again (Is. 53:10b, 12a)
 - c. Belief in Jesus brings _____ and eternal life (Is. 53:11)

2. Then Salvation

Salvation, in this sense, is the act of God whereby He _____ the believing sinner from an eternity in hell the moment the sinner believes the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Acts 8:36-37, we read the testimony from the Ethiopian eunuch that he had believed in Jesus Christ and desired to be baptized.

Understanding his testimony of salvation:

1. He _____ to be baptized. (v36)
2. He confessed his _____. (v37)
 - a. He believed the _____ identity of Jesus ("the Son of God")
 - b. He believed that Jesus _____ the price for his sin. ("Christ" as fulfillment of Isaiah 53)
 - c. The moment he believed this, Jesus _____ him

3. Then Baptism

Water Baptism is the act of a believer being dipped into water in order to _____ with the Savior in whom they have already trusted.

In Acts 8:38, we read that Philip baptized the man who was already saved, and then in the next few verses we read about what the Lord had in store for Philip next.

This order of salvation before water baptism is seen and taught in many other Scriptures:

(examples → Acts 8:11-12, 10:43-48, 16:30-33)

(distinction taught → 1 Corinthians 1:13-18, 15:1-11)

“Baptism” in Scripture

Greek verb **baptizō** = *to dip, immerse, sink; figuratively, to identify with*

Dry, Real, Identification:

1. **Baptism into Moses** (1 Cor. 10:1-3)
 - Members of Israel were identified with Moses as participants of the exodus.
2. **Baptism of the cross** (Mark 10:35-39; Luke 12:50, Matt. 20:22)
 - Jesus, and faithful disciples, are identified with suffering in this world.
3. **Baptism of fire** (Matt. 3:11-12)
 - Christ-rejectors will be identified with unquenchable fire in a future judgment.
4. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** (1 Cor. 12:13; Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 1:13-14)
 - Believers are identified as eternal members of the body of Christ by the Spirit of Christ at the moment of salvation.

In Water, Ritual, Symbolic:

5. **Baptism of John** (Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 1:4)
 - Those who embraced John’s message of the coming Messiah publicly identified themselves, including Jesus getting baptized in water (Matthew 3:13-17).
6. **Baptism of Jesus’ disciples** (John 3:26, 4:1-2)
 - Those who embraced Jesus’ message about Himself were baptized by the disciples.
7. **Baptism of Believers in the Church** (1 Cor. 1:13-17; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:28, 41; 8:12-13, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)
 - Believers in Christ during the age of the church are publicly baptized with water to signify their union with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

* *Why is water baptism by immersion a good picture of salvation?*