

Baptismal Questions - Database

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posted ~ 2 hours ago (5/18/2011) **1904***** *New Creation*, 1904, p.455 ***

The Form of Words

No particular form of words for this service is set before us in the Scriptures, and all can readily see that the words are of secondary importance—that the baptism might be equally valid if no words at all were used; because, as previously stated, the real contract is between the baptized one and the Lord, and the *act* of water baptism is the open confession of it. It is not, therefore, a question of what the administrator may believe or disbelieve, say or omit to say, but of what is the thought and intention of the heart of the one thus symbolically baptized.

Nevertheless, basing our judgment upon the words of the Lord, in Matt. 28:19, and the words of the Apostle in Rom. 6:3, we recommend as a simple form of sound words for the occasion these:

“Brother John [or other Christian name], in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, by this authority, I baptize thee into Christ.”

1913*** *The Watch Tower*, May 15, 1913, p.159 ***

The following are the questions usually put by Brother Russell when receiving candidates for water immersion. It will be noticed that they are on broad lines - questions which any Christian, whatever his confession, should be able to answer in the affirmative without hesitation if he is suitable to be acknowledged as a member of the church of Christ:

- (1) Have you repented of sin with such restitution as you are able, and are you trusting in the merit of Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of your sins and the basis of your justification?
- (2) Have you made a full consecration of yourself with all the powers that you possess - talent, money, time, influence - all to the Lord, to be used faithfully in His service, even unto death?
- (3) On the basis of these confessions, we acknowledge you as a member of the Household of Faith, and give to you as such the right hand of fellowship, not in the name of any sect or party or creed, but in the name of the Redeemer, our glorified Lord, and His faithful followers.

1942*** *The Watchtower*, October 1, 1942, p.302 ***

Before proceeding with your baptism it is proper, first, that you answer affirmatively these questions to show you are taking this step with the Scriptural understanding thereof and are fit for baptism as a devoted servant of the Lord, fully responsible to Him:

- (1) Do you believe in Jehovah God the Father, that "salvation belongeth unto Jehovah", and that Christ Jesus is his Son in whose blood your sins are washed away and by whom salvation comes to you from God ?
 - (2) Have you therefore confessed your sins to God and asked for cleansing by Christ Jesus, and therefore turned away from sin and the world, and consecrated yourself without reservation to God to do his will?
- Your answer, being Yes, is testimony that you are worthy and in line for water baptism in obedience to God's will.

1945*** *The Watchtower*, February 1, 1945, p.44 ***

Before the immersion by the administrator, there are proper questions to be asked of the candidates and to be answered affirmatively. The substance of such questions should be as follows:

Have you recognized yourself as a sinner and needing salvation from Jehovah God? and have you acknowledged that this salvation proceeds from Him and through his Ransomer Christ Jesus?

On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for redemption, have you consecrated yourself unreservedly to do the will of God henceforth as that will is revealed to you through Christ

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Jesus and through God's Word as His holy spirit makes it plain?

Those answering Yes to both of these questions are worthy, in the light of the Holy Scriptures, to be received and immersed in water.

1956

*** *The Watchtower*, July 1, 1956, p.407 ***

Therefore now with your mouth make a public declaration of your faith by answering these two questions that I shall ask you, and let your answers be hearable, that all those about you may be witnesses to the declaration that you solemnly make:

(1) Have you recognized yourself before Jehovah God as a sinner who needs salvation, and have you acknowledged to him that this salvation proceeds from him the Father through his Son Jesus Christ?

(2) On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for salvation, have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to God to do his will henceforth as he reveals it to you through Jesus Christ and through the Bible under the enlightenment of the holy spirit?

All of you who answered "Yes" to these questions should be baptized without hesitation or delay. You have sufficient knowledge and understanding of what you are doing and God holds you responsible to carry out his will by being baptized in water.

1960

*** *The Watchtower*, May 15, 1960, p.308 ***

Before candidates are admitted to baptism it is proper that they answer two questions, so that all those assembled with them for the occasion may be witnesses who have heard from the candidates' own mouths that they understand what they are doing and that they have taken the required steps. Those who can answer the questions in the affirmative should say, "Yes," after each question, and should say it loudly and in unison, that is, all at the same time.

The first question is: Have you recognized yourself before Jehovah God as a sinner who needs salvation, and have you acknowledged to him that this salvation proceeds from him, the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ?

The second question is: On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for salvation have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to God to do his will henceforth as he reveals it to you through Jesus Christ and through the Bible under the enlightening power of the holy spirit?

Everyone who has answered "Yes" to these two questions is eligible for baptism and should be baptized at that same circuit or district assembly of Jehovah's witnesses.

1966

*** *The Watchtower*, August 1, 1966, p.465 ***

Dedication is a solemn decision made unconditionally and an act of faith. Are you able to answer "Yes" to the two questions regularly propounded when individuals present themselves for Christian baptism?

(1) Have you recognized yourself before Jehovah God as a sinner who needs salvation, and have you acknowledged to him that this salvation proceeds from him, the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ?

(2) On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for salvation, have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to God to do his will henceforth as he reveals it to you through Jesus Christ and through the Bible under the enlightening power of the holy spirit?

If so, then we say: "And now why are you delaying? Rise, get baptized and wash your sins away by your calling upon his name."—Acts 22:16.

1970

*** *The Watchtower*, May 15, 1970, p.309***

Two questions which do search out the heart and mind of each candidate are: (1) Have you recognized yourself as a sinner and needing salvation from Jehovah God? And have you acknowledged that this salvation proceeds from him and through his ransom, Christ Jesus? (2) On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for redemption have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to Jehovah God, to do his will henceforth as that will is revealed to you through Christ Jesus and through God's Word as his holy spirit makes it plain? Those who answer "yes" audibly to these two questions so that the other persons present may witness their affirmation of dedication may appropriately be baptized.

1973

*** *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1973, p.280 ***

If you feel the same about serving Jehovah God and taking Christ's yoke upon you, we suggest that you consider the following two questions, which are asked of candidates for baptism:

(1) Have you repented of your sins and turned around, recognizing yourself before Jehovah God as a condemned sinner who needs salvation, and have you acknowledged to him that this salvation proceeds from him, the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ?

(2) On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for salvation, have you dedicated yourself unreservedly to God to do his will henceforth as he reveals it to you through Jesus Christ and through the Bible under the enlightening power of the holy spirit?

If you find that you can answer "YES" to these questions, then it would be appropriate for you to speak to the presiding overseer in the congregation of Jehovah's witnesses with which you associate, with a view to getting baptized.

1985

*** *The Watchtower*, June 1, 1985, p.30 ***

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