The Bible reveals that during His earthly ministry, Jesus Himself did not baptize anyone with water.

> *In John 3:22 (NIV) and John 4:1-2 (NIV), it says:*
> "After these things, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized. Now Jesus himself did not baptize, but His disciples did."
> *This clearly shows that although Jesus' disciples baptized people, Jesus Himself never personally baptized anyone with water.*

Why is this important? It tells us that Jesus intended to perform a different kind of baptism one that only He can administer. Water baptism is a physical act done by humans, but the baptism Jesus offers is a spiritual transformation by the Holy Spirit.

> *Water baptism symbolizes the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When baptized, a person is immersed in water and raised again, representing dying to the old self and rising to new life in*

> *Christ. This is described in Romans 6:3-4 (NIV):*
> “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
>
> *On the other hand, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a spiritual act in which the believer’s spirit is immersed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This baptism is a sovereign act of Jesus, and no human or angel can perform it for another. Jesus promised this baptism in Luke 3:16 (NIV):*
> “John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’”

Both baptisms are essential. We must be baptized in water by human ministers and baptized in the Holy Spirit by Jesus Himself.

> *Some teach that baptism in the Holy Spirit is optional, or that water baptism alone is sufficient. Others claim that once someone receives the Holy Spirit, water baptism is no longer*

> *necessary. These views contradict Scripture. Jesus said in John 3:5 (NIV):*
> "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."
> *Here, "born of water" refers to water baptism, and "born of the Spirit" refers to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Both are necessary for entrance into God's kingdom.*
>
> *Additionally, even after receiving the Holy Spirit, water baptism remains important. For example, when Peter visited the Gentile Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit came upon them first, but Peter still instructed them to be baptized in water. This is recorded in Acts 10:44-48 (NIV):*
> "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

This shows that receiving the Holy Spirit does not replace water baptism. Both baptisms are vital parts of a believer's spiritual

journey.

Have *you* been baptized with water? If not, and you have already heard the truth, you are at risk spiritually. If you were baptized as a child or by sprinkling only, consider being baptized again by full immersion, as practiced in the New Testament (see John 3:23 (NIV):
“Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming to be baptized.”)

Have you also been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, ask Jesus He is faithful and will give you His Holy Spirit, because He desires to be with you more than you desire Him. But first, repent sincerely by turning away from all sin, and be baptized with water if you have not already.

> *Peter answered the people’s question about what to do in Acts 2:37-39 (NIV):*
> “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is

> for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”

May the Lord richly bless you as you seek Him.

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