

being baptized?" This is clearly water baptism.

• Acts 10:47-48 (Cornelius): After the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his household, Peter said, *"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water."* 

These examples confirm that baptism, as practiced in the early church, involved water.

## 3. Water Baptism and Salvation Are Linked

- Acts 2:38: "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."
- This command refers to an act believers must do—repent and be baptized. The reference to the Holy Spirit as a subsequent gift clarifies that the baptism here involves water.
  - **1 Peter 3:20-21:** *"…In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God."*
- The passage directly connects salvation to water baptism, symbolized by the water that saved Noah and his family.

## 4. The Singular Baptism in Ephesians 4:5

Ephesians 4:5: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

- By the time of Paul's writing, Holy Spirit baptism was not the normative experience for Christians. Water baptism was the standard practice for all believers in the early church (Acts 8:12, Acts 18:8).
- The "one baptism" likely refers to water baptism, as it was a consistent part of conversion.

## 5. Holy Spirit Baptism Was Temporary and Unique

Holy Spirit baptism was a miraculous event associated with the apostles (Acts 2) or special circumstances to confirm God's inclusion of Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48).

- Unlike water baptism, it was not something commanded for all believers or a step in the process of salvation.
- In Acts 10:47-48, even those who had received the Holy Spirit were commanded to be baptized in water.

## 6. Baptism Is an Act of Obedience

Jesus explicitly commanded water baptism as part of the Great Commission:

- **Matthew 28:19:** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- The command to baptize involves human participation, which aligns with water baptism, not the miraculous Holy Spirit baptism.

## **Biblical Conclusion**

Passages such as Romans 6:3-4 clearly refer to water baptism because:

1. The imagery of burial and resurrection fits immersion in water.

- 2. The consistent practice of the early church was water baptism.
- 3. Salvation is linked to water baptism in numerous passages.
- 4. Holy Spirit baptism was unique and not commanded for all believers.

The Biblical evidence overwhelmingly supports the conclusion that Romans 6:3-4 refers to water baptism.

### JASON said:

You mentioned that confession is necessary for salvation, citing Romans 10:9-10. Isn't it true that this confession is not a prayer, but a confession of one's faith to people, like the Ethiopian confessed his faith to Philip in Acts 8:37, or as Jesus required in Matthew 10:32?

### ChatGPT said:

Yes, you are absolutely correct! The confession mentioned in **Romans 10:9-10**, as well as other biblical passages, refers to a public acknowledgment or declaration of one's faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, not a private prayer.

Here's a deeper look at the biblical teaching:

1. Confession in Romans 10:9-10

## Romans

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

- The word *"declare with your mouth"* (Greek: *homologeō*) implies an open and public acknowledgment of faith in Jesus as Lord.
- This aligns with the idea of proclaiming faith in front of others, demonstrating commitment to Christ openly.

# 2. The Ethiopian Eunuch's Confession (Acts 8:37)

While some manuscripts omit Acts 8:37, many include the eunuch's confession: "Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.""

- This confession of faith preceded the eunuch's baptism.
- It was made publicly to Philip, showing the necessity of openly professing belief in Jesus.

# 3. Jesus' Teaching on Confession (Matthew 10:32-33)

#### Matthew

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

- Jesus explicitly ties the act of publicly confessing Him to eternal consequences.
- This further confirms that confession is a verbal, outward act made in the presence of others.

To be continued...Full article on http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com

**10:32-33**:

10:9-10<sup>.</sup>