

## One Faith; Ephesians 4:1-6

- I. Unity
  - A. One Body
  - B. One Spirit
  - C. One Hope
  - D. One Lord
  - E. One Faith
  - F. One Baptism
- II. One Faith
  - A. Hebrews 11:1; Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - B. "Hoped" - Someone or something on which expectations are centered
  - C. "Conviction" - evidence that makes someone fully agree, understand, or realize the truth or validity of something; especially based on argument or discussion
  - D. So, the faith is an expectation of Jesus' resurrection based on the evidence provided for us by Jesus, the Spirit, the apostles and the prophets and given to us by God
  - E. The faith is different than our faith
    1. We are each at different stages in our faith, some stronger, some weaker
    2. And we act based on our faith
    3. But The Faith doesn't change; it is the same every day for every person
  - F. 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
    1. The faith is a pattern of sound words
    2. The faith is the good deposit entrusted to us
  - G. There are many books out there that claim to bring you ultimate enlightenment or salvation
    1. The Quran (Islam)
    2. The Torah (Judaism)
    3. The Sanskrit (Hinduism)
    4. Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, and many more don't have central texts but have many competing texts
    5. The Bible (Christianity)
  - H. While most religions are subjective in nature, Christianity is based in factual history
    1. Exactly what is enlightenment in Buddhism?
    2. Where is the proof that Kami exist in Shintoism?
    3. Read the history of the prophet Muhammed
    4. There are over 3 million gods in Hinduism
    5. Some of the Eastern religions can't even agree on their primary facets and texts
  - I. We should stop looking at the books of the bible as religious literature and look at them as historical documents
  - J. Acts 9:22; But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.
    1. "Proving" - to establish the truth by argument, induction, or reasoning
    2. Arguing is not bickering back and forth, but a desire to get to the truth using reasoning and deduction
    3. We can argue as long as the truth is the winner

4. If Paul could use the Old Testament history and prophets to prove that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah, then so can we!
  5. Except we also have the New Testament documents that show the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies
- K. No wonder it is THE Faith, THE way
- L. There is one faith by which we have salvation, the faith of Jesus Christ
- M. Acts 4:11–12; 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

### III. One Baptism

#### A. The baptism of Moses

1. 1 Corinthians 10:1–5; 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
2. Immersed into Moses
3. Submitted to the authority of Moses to speak for God
4. The same spiritual food and drink - I'm not sure Paul is referring to mana and water
5. The spiritual rock that followed them was Christ
6. The one immersion cannot be the baptism of Moses

#### B. The baptism of John

1. Mark 1:4; John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
2. Repentance and forgiveness; it would seem that this closely resembles Christian baptism
3. But Paul shows us that it is not
4. Acts 19:1–7; 1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. 7 There were about twelve men in all.
5. It is clear that the baptism of John is not the one baptism

#### C. Baptism of the Holy Spirit (fire)

1. Matthew 3:11–12; 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
2. There are two recorded instances of the baptism of the Holy Spirit
3. Acts 1:21–2:4; 21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become

- with us a witness to his resurrection.” 23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
4. This one closely resembles John’s prophecy (Holy Spirit and fire)
  5. Acts 10:44–48; 44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
  6. This baptism closely resembles the one on the day of Pentecost; however, Peter mentions another baptism that was required after this one
  7. The baptism of the Holy Spirit cannot be the one baptism
- D. Baptism in the Name of Jesus (The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) so that our sins may be forgiven
1. Matthew 28:18–20; 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
  2. Mark 16:15–16; 15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
  3. Acts 2:38–41; 38 And Peter said to them, “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. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
  4. After their belief, Peter still had some things to say about their salvation
  5. Repent - to turn in the opposite direction
  6. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven (1978 NIV)
  7. Here is the one baptism - in the name of Jesus Christ (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) so that our sins may be forgiven
  8. Throughout the history of the early church this is what we see

- a) Acts 8:12; But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
  - b) Acts 8:36; And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"
  - c) Acts 16:14–15; 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.
  - d) Acts 16:32–33; 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
- E. The one baptism; immersion in water in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins

#### IV. Unity

- A. Maintain the unity of the Spirit
- B. One Body, one Spirit
- C. One Hope, one Lord
- D. One Faith, one Baptism