

# How Many Baptisms Are There?

Paul wrote that we must get past elementary understandings and move on to maturity.<sup>1</sup> That's because there's a propensity to remain immature as we focus on the basics and not on growing spiritually. As a school teacher I know that many students don't want to learn more because they're distracted by other interests. I see that same disinterest in growing and maturing spiritually in busy, world-oriented believers and their focus on the issues of life.

When writing about maturity, Paul listed a number of areas he considered fundamental and not worth remaining focused on. One of those was the doctrine of baptisms (plural). That means there's more than one baptism, even though he stated elsewhere there's only one baptism.<sup>2</sup> So, what are these baptisms?

Here's a list of those referenced in the NT:

1. the baptism of fire,<sup>3</sup>
2. the baptism of the Holy Spirit,<sup>4</sup>
3. the baptism of suffering (Jesus' cross),<sup>5</sup>
4. the baptism into Moses,<sup>6</sup>
5. the baptism into the cloud,<sup>7</sup>
6. the baptism of repentance,<sup>8</sup> and
7. water baptism.<sup>9</sup>
8. (Also, baptism for the dead)<sup>10</sup>

I bring this to your attention so your aware of their existence and can answer people's questions about baptisms.

Laurence  
23-5-2021

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1 – Hebrews 6:1

2 – Ephesians 4:5

3 – Luke 3:16

4 – Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5

5 – Matthew 20:22; Luke 12:50

6 – 1 Corinthians 10:2

7 – 1 Corinthians 10:2

8 – Acts 19:4

9 – Matthew 3:6, 16; John 1:26; Acts 8:36

10 – 1 Corinthians 15:29