

Baptism in Scripture - Before and After Christ

Baptism existed before Christ's resurrection, and it also exists after. Are there differences in these two baptisms? This study addresses this question.

1 Before Christ's Death & Resurrection

1.1 Nephi's Words

1 Nephi 3:7-12 – “**7** And he [Lehi] spake also concerning a prophet, which should come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord; **8** Yea, even he should go forth and cry in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord and make his paths straight; **9** For there standeth one among you whom ye know not; and he is mightier than I, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. **10** And much spake my father concerning this thing. **11** And my father saith that he should baptize in Bethabara, beyond Jordan; and he also spake that he should baptize with water; yea, even that he should baptize the Messiah with water. **12** And after that he had baptized the Messiah with water, he should behold and bear record that he had baptized the Lamb of God, which should take away the sins of the world.”

2 Nephi 6:48-50 – “**48** And he commandeth all men that they must repent, **and be baptized in his name**, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. **49** And if they will not repent and believe in his name, **and be baptized in his name**, and endure to the end, they must be damned; **50** For the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, hath spoken it;”

Nephi emphasizes the need for baptism to those in his midst (“my beloved brethren”):

2 Nephi 13:6-24 – “**6** Wherefore, I would that ye should remember that I have spoken unto you, concerning that prophet which the Lord shewed unto me, that should baptize the Lamb of God, which should take away the sin of the world. **7** **And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water.** **8** And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, **wherein the Lamb of God did fulfill all righteousness in being baptized by water?** Know ye not that he was holy? **9** But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men, that according to the flesh, he humbleth himself before the Father, **and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments;** **10** Wherefore, after that he was baptized with water, the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove. **11** And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them. **12** And he saith unto the children of men, Follow thou me. **13** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? **14** And the Father saith, Repent ye, repent ye, **and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son.** **15** And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, **He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost,** like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do. **16** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, **but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of**

Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, **then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost;** **17** **Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost;** and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. **18** But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, **After that ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water,** and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me. **19** And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my beloved, are true and faithful. **20** **He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.** **21** And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall endure to the end, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved; **22** Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen, that your Lord and your Redeemer should do: **23** For, for this cause have they been shewn unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. **24** **For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost."**

1.2 Alma

The first account of actual baptism within the Book of Mormon is noted in the following passage:

Mosiah 9:35-50 – **35** And it came to pass after many days, there were a goodly number gathered together to the place of Mormon, to hear the words of Alma. **36** Yea, all were gathered together that believed on his word, to hear him. **37** And he did teach them, and did preach unto them repentance, and redemption, and faith on the Lord. **38** And it came to pass that he said unto them, Behold, here are the waters of Mormon; for thus were they called. **39** And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; **40** Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, **and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life:** **41** Now I say unto you, If this be the desires of your hearts, **what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?** **42** And now when the people had heard these words, they clapped their hands for joy, and exclaimed, This is the desires of our hearts. **43** And now it came to pass that Alma took Helam, he being one of the first, and went and stood forth in the water, and cried, saying, O Lord, pour out thy Spirit upon thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart. **44** And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he said, Helam, **I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God, as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant to serve him until you are dead, as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant unto you eternal life, through the redemption of Christ, which he hath prepared from the foundation of the world.** **45** And after Alma had said these words, **both Alma and Helam were buried in the water;** and they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, **being filled with the Spirit.** **46** And again, Alma took another, and went forth a second time into the water, and baptized him according to the first, only he did not bury himself again in the water. **47** And after this

manner he did baptize every one that went forth to the place of Mormon: and they were in number about two hundred and four souls; **48** Yea, and they were baptized in the waters of Mormon, and were filled with the grace of God: **49** And they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward. **50** **And it came to pass that whosoever was baptized by the power and authority of God, was added to his church.**”

Mosiah 9:176-180 – “**176** And it came to pass that King Limhi and many of his people were desirous to be baptized; **but there was none in the land that had authority from God.** **177** And Ammon declined doing this thing, considering himself an unworthy servant; therefore they did not at that time form themselves into a church, waiting upon the Spirit of the Lord. **178** Now they were desirous to become even as Alma and his brethren, which had fled into the wilderness. **179** They were desirous to be baptized, **as a witness and a testimony that they were willing to serve God with all their hearts;** **180** Nevertheless they did prolong the time; and an account of their baptism shall be given hereafter.”

Mosiah 11:94-96 – “**94** And it came to pass that after Alma had taught the people many things, and had made an end of speaking to them, that King Limhi was desirous that he might be baptized; and all his people were desirous that they might be baptized also. **95** Therefore Alma did go forth into the water, and did baptize them; yea, he did baptize them after the manner he did his brethren in the waters of Mormon; **96** Yea, **and as many as he did baptize did belong to the church of God;** and this because of their belief on the words of Alma.”

Mosiah 11:129-131 (the Lord speaking to Alma) – “**129** For behold, this is my church: **whosoever that is baptized, shall be baptized unto repentance.** **130** And whosoever ye [Alma] receive, shall believe in my name; **and him will I freely forgive:** **131** For it is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world; for it is I that hath created them; and it is I that granteth unto him that believeth in the end, a place at my right hand.”

Alma 2:4-6 – “**4** And they began to establish the church more fully; yea, and many were baptized in the waters of Sidon, **and were joined to the church of God;** **5** Yea, they were baptized by the hand of Alma, who had been consecrated the high priest over the people of the church, by the hand of his father Alma. **6** And it came to pass in the seventh year of the reign of the Judges, there were about three thousand five hundred souls that united themselves to the church of God, and were baptized.”

Alma 2:28 – “And thus in the commencement of the ninth year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi, Alma delivered up the judgment seat to Nephihah, **and confined himself wholly to the high priesthood of the holy order of God,** to the testimony of the word, according to the spirit of revelation and prophecy.”

Alma 3:73 – “For I am called to speak after this manner, **according to the holy order of God,** which is in Christ Jesus:”

Alma 5:24-28 (Alma to the church in the valley of Gideon) – “**24** Now I say unto you, **that ye must repent, and be born again:** for the Spirit saith, If ye are not born again, ye can not inherit the kingdom of heaven; **25** **Therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins,** that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world, which is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness; **26** Yea, I say unto you, Come and fear not, and lay aside

every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction; **27** Yea, come and go forth, **and shew unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins, and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day, by going into the waters of baptism;** **28** And whosoever doeth this, **and keepeth the commandments of God from thenceforth,** the same will remember that I say unto him, yea, he will remember that I have said unto him, **he shall have eternal life,** according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me.”

Also see: Alma 3:4, 107-108; Alma 4:2; Alma 6:7-11; Alma 7:41

1.3 Nephi

3 Nephi 1:27 – “**27** And it came to pass that Nephi went forth among the people, and also many others, **baptizing unto repentance, in the which there was a great remission of sins.**”

3 Nephi 3:67-70 – “**67** And Nephi did cry unto the people in the commencement of the thirty and third year; and he did preach unto them repentance and remission of sins. **68** Now I would have you remember also, **that there were none which were brought unto repentance, who were not baptized with water;** **69** Therefore there were ordained of Nephi, men unto this ministry, that all such as should come unto them, should be baptized with water, **and this as a witness and a testimony before God, and unto the people, that they had repented and received a remission of their sins.** **70** And there were many in the commencement of this year, **that were baptized unto repentance:** and thus the more part of the year did pass away.”

Also see: Helaman 5:110-116

1.4 John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-17 – “**1** In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, **2** And saying, **Repent ye:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **3** For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **4** And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, **6** And were baptized of him in Jordan, **confessing their sins.** **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: **9** And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. **10** And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **11** **I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:** but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost,** and with fire: **12** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. **13** Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. **14** But John forbad him, saying, I have need to

be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? **15** And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him. **16** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Note that John himself said that he did not have authority to baptize with the Holy Ghost, but simply with water unto repentance.

Mark 1:4-5 – “**4** John did baptize in the wilderness, **and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** **5** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, **confessing their sins.**”

Luke 3:1-3 – “**1** Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, **2** Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. **3** And he came into all the country about Jordan, **preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;**”

John 1:29-33 – “**29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. **30** This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **31** And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. **32** And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. **33** And I knew him not: **but he that sent me to baptize with water,** the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”

1.5 Others

Alma 10:103-104 – “**103** And Alma established a church in the land of Sidom, and consecrated priests and teachers in the land, to baptize unto the Lord whosoever were desirous to be baptized. **104** And it came to pass that they were many; for they did flock in from all the region round about Sidom, and were baptized;”

Alma 21:142 – “**142** Now behold, Helaman and his brethren were no less serviceable unto the people, than was Moroni; for they did preach the word of God, **and they did baptize unto repentance,** all men whosoever would hearken unto their words.”

Alma 21:185-186 – “**185** And thus ended the nineteenth year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi; yea, and there was continual peace among them, and exceeding great prosperity in the church, because of their heed and diligence which they gave unto the word of God, which was declared unto them by Helaman, and Shiblon, and Corianton, and Ammon, and his brethren, etc.; **186** Yea, **and by all those which had been ordained by the holy order of God,** being baptized unto repentance, and sent forth to preach among the people, etc.”

John 3:22-23 – “**22** After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. **23** And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”

John 4:1-3 – “**1** When therefore the LORD knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, **2** (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) **3** He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.”

Also see: Alma 29:55; Helaman 2:22-24, 76-81

Baptism before Christ’s resurrection can thus be summarized as follows:

1. Only those that had authority could baptize
2. Only those that were repentant and had faith in Christ were baptized (not children; reference Moroni 8)
3. Those that were baptized were immersed
4. They were baptized in the name of the Lord, looking forward to Christ
5. Those that were baptized were filled with and had an outpouring of the Holy Spirit
6. Those that were baptized entered into a covenant with God that they would keep His commandments
7. Those that were baptized unto repentance with faith in Christ received a remission of their sins
8. Those that were baptized were added to the church
9. Those that were baptized and endured to the end would be granted eternal life
10. Baptism was so important that even Christ would be baptized
11. Those that were baptized were looking forward to Christ’s sacrifice

2 After Christ’s Death & Resurrection

2.1 New Authority and Instructions

Nephi had already been baptizing prior to Christ, but still needed to be given new authority and instructed in the baptismal formula under this new baptism (Nephi was also baptized again).

3 Nephi 5:18-28 – “**18** And it came to pass that he spake unto Nephi (for Nephi was among the multitude), and he commanded him that he should come forth. **19** And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord, and he did kiss his feet. **20** And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him. **21** **And the Lord said unto him, I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people, when I am again ascended into heaven. **22** And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. **23** And he saith unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. **24** Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. **25** And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. **26** And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth**

again out of the water. **27** And after this manner shall ye baptize **in my name, for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one**; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one. **28** And according as I have commanded you, thus shall ye baptize.”

Matthew 28:18-19 – “**18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**”

The term “in the name of” represents authority or permission with reference to another, or as a representative of another.

3 Nephi 5:44-49 – “**44** And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those which had been called (now the number of them which had been called **and received power and authority to baptize**, were twelve), **45** And behold he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying, Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve which I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants; **46** **And unto them I have given power, that they may baptize you with water**, and after that ye are baptized with water, behold I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; **47** Therefore blessed are ye, if ye shall believe in me, and be baptized, after that ye have seen me, and know that I am. **48** And again, more blessed are they which shall believe in your words, because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am. **49** Yea, blessed are they which shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, **and shall receive a remission of their sins.**”

2.2 People Re-Baptized

3 Nephi 9:12-14 – “**12** And it came to pass that Nephi went down into the water, and was baptized. **13** And he came up out of the water, and began to baptize. And he baptized all they whom Jesus had chosen. **14** And it came to pass when they were all baptized, and had come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost did fall upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

Acts 18:24-26 – “**24** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John.** **26** And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”

Acts 19:1-6 – “**1** And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, **2** He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** **3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. **4** Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.** **5** When

they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

Again, John’s baptism and his authority were not associated with the gift of the Holy Ghost.

2.3 Baptism’s Necessity

3 Nephi 5:34-35 – “**34** And whoso believeth in me, **and is baptized**, the same shall be saved; and they are they which shall inherit the kingdom of God. **35** And whoso believeth not in me, **and is not baptized**, shall be damned.”

John 3:5 – “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**”

Titus 3:5-7 – “**5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** **6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

1 Peter 3:18-22 – “**18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **19** By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; **20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **21** The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **22** Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

2.4 Remission of Sins

Baptism when associated with faith and repentance brings a remission of sins.

John 20:22-23 – “**22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: **23** **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them;** and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

3 Nephi 14:3 – “**3** **And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, which are of the house of Israel.**”

Moroni 8:12 – “**11** Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and baptism unto they which are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their

little children: and their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. **12 Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins.**”

Moroni 8:29 – “**29** And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; **and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins;** and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.”

Acts 2:38 – “**38** Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**”

Acts 22:16 – “**16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, **and wash away thy sins,** calling on the name of the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:25-27 – “**25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,** **27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

2.5 A Covenant

Moroni 6:1-5 – “**1** And now I speak concerning baptism. **2** Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, **and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.** **3** And none were received unto baptism, **save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him unto the end.** **4** And after that they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ, **5** And their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith.”

2.6 Uniting with the Church of Christ

3 Nephi 12:13-14 – “**13** **And they which were baptized in the name of Jesus, were called the church of Christ.** **14** And it came to pass that as the disciples of Jesus were journeying and were preaching the things which they had both heard and seen, **and were baptizing in the name of Jesus,** it came to pass that the disciples were gathered together, and were united in mighty prayer and fasting.”

2.7 Identifying with Christ

Romans 6:1-6 – “**1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? **3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

Galatians 3:26-29 – “**26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. **27** **For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Baptism after Christ's resurrection can thus be summarized as follows:

1. Only those that have authority can baptize
2. Only those that are repentant and have faith in Christ are baptized (not children; reference Moroni 8)
3. Those that are baptized are immersed
4. Baptism is in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
5. Those that are baptized will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (baptism of the Holy Ghost) through the laying on of hands
6. Those that are baptized enter into a covenant with God that they will keep His commandments
7. Those that are baptized unto repentance with faith in Christ will receive a remission of their sins
8. Those that are baptized are added to the church
9. Those that are baptized and endure to the end will be granted eternal life
10. Baptism is so important that even Christ was baptized and we should follow his example
11. Those that are baptized are looking backwards to Christ's sacrifice and his resurrection
12. Those that are baptized identify with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection

3 Comparison

The following is a comparison summary between baptism before Christ and baptism after Christ:

	Baptism Before Christ	Baptism After Christ
Authority required to baptize	X	X
Repentance and faith in Christ required (not applicable to children)	X	X
Baptism by immersion	X	X
Receive a remission/forgiveness of sins	X	X
Born again	X	X
Added to the church	X	X
Granted eternal life	X	X
Requires endurance until the end	X	X
Filling and outpouring of the Holy Ghost associated with baptism (exception John's baptism)	X	X
Gift/baptism of the Holy Ghost following baptism (exception John's baptism)	X	X
Enter into a covenant to keep commandments	X	X
Commandments that are to be followed include those Christ personally gave while on earth		X
Baptized in the name of the Lord	X	X
Baptized with the words "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."		X
Looking forward to Christ's death and resurrection	X	
Looking backward to Christ's death and resurrection		X
Identify with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection		X