

Baptism—Its Definition and Meaning

baptism ≠ water

The word 'baptism' is not equated with the word 'water'. 'Baptism' and 'water' are not synonyms, or synonymous. There is a baptism 'with water', but 'baptism' is not 'water'. Here, in context, are three distinct baptisms, and only one is associated with 'water'.

Matthew 3:11 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**:

Note. John 'baptized' 'with water' 'in Jordan' (Mk 1:8-9).

Strong's is wrong

Strong's Concordance definition of 'baptize' and 'baptism' is at best...poor, and definitely misleading, if not altogether wrong.

baptize: 907 baptizo (bap-tid'-zo); from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: KJV-- Baptist, baptize, wash.

baptism: 908 baptisma (bap'-tis-mah); from 907; immersion, baptism (technically or figuratively): KJV-- baptism.

Young's Concordance more accurately defines 'baptize' as—To consecrate (by *pouring out on, or putting into). The word 'consecrate' not only passes as a synonym, but also properly allows for the various modes of bible baptisms.

Definition: Consecration, n. The act or ceremony of separating from a common to a sacred use, or of devoting and dedicating a person or thing to the service and worship of God, by certain rites or solemnities. Consecration does not make a person or thing really holy, but declares it to be sacred, that is devoted to God or to divine service; as the consecration of the priests among the Israelites; the consecration of the vessels used in the temple; the consecration of a bishop. *American Dictionary Of The English Language*; Noah Webster 1828

Consecration as a synonym for the word 'baptism':

1. Israel' national consecration **unto** Moses: 1Cor 10:2
2. Consecration **with** water: Mt 3:11
3. Consecration **with** the Holy Ghost: Mt 3:11; (*Acts 10:45 'poured')
4. Consecration **with** fire: Mt 3:11; (*Rev 14:10 'poured')
5. The consecration **by** the Spirit **into** the body of Christ: 1Cor 12:13; Rom 6:3
6. Christ's **death** consecration: Mk 10:35-39; Lk 12:50; (*Mt 26:12 'poured')
7. Consecration for the **dead**: 1Cor 15:29

None of the words used in *Strong's Concordance* to define "baptism" can be used as a synonym in each case and make sense in the context: immerse; submerge; overwhelmed. Immersion is even foreign to the scriptures, and the entire definition has lead to much confusion, and wrong deductions on the subject.