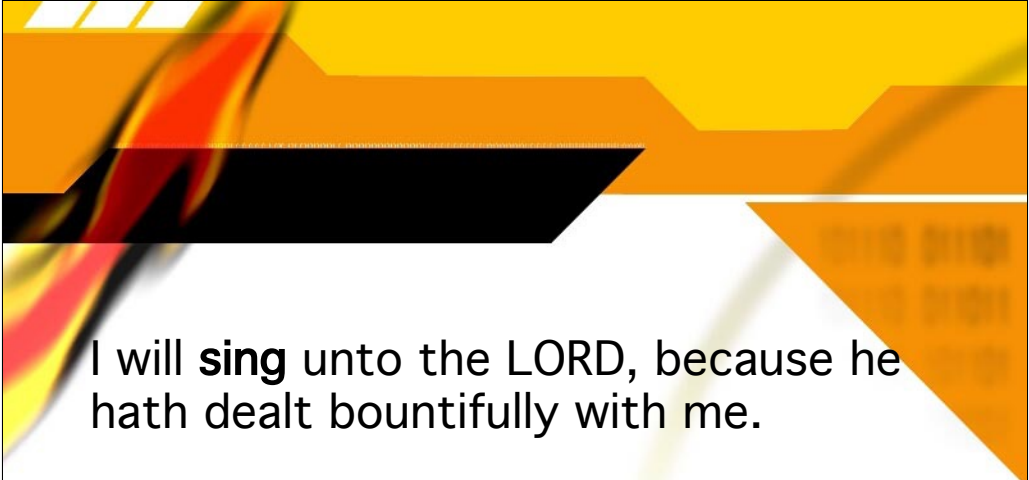
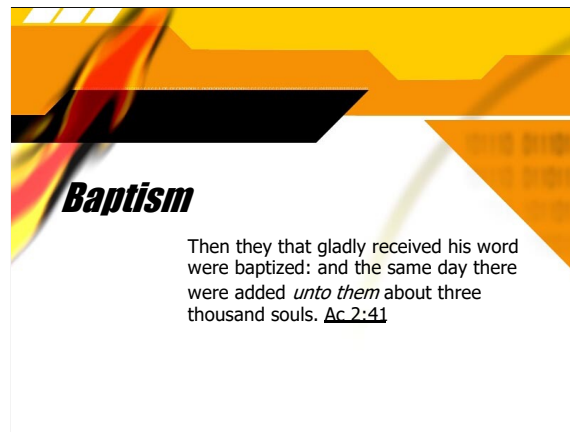




I will **sing** unto the LORD, because he
hath dealt bountifully with me.

Ps 13:6



When you graduate from high school and receive that diploma, it stands for something.

When you graduate from college and receive the diploma, it stands for something.

It stand for 4 years of college, It stands for lots of money spent, it stands for hours of study, and sacrifice of others.

But when you are baptized, you show something. You declare something.

It is not like a diploma rewarding you for receiving Christ.

Baptism stands for declaring what God has done in your life and that you have submitted to his will.

Luke 3:7* Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8* Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin 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.

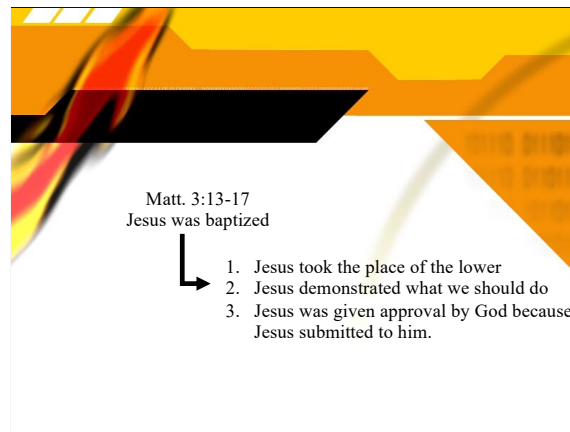
These people saw baptism as the thing to do and be part of the movement. But it means more than this. It was a declaration of repentance.

Have you ever seen balloons at the end of a lane. What are they to communicate? Pink for a girl and blue for a boy. It is a declaration of the birth of a child.

Those that gladly received their word were “granted” baptism.

What makes Baptism so important that people will die because of it. It is because that they are committed. I believe that it includes what baptism is, a declaration that Jesus is Lord and I have committed my whole life to him. Our forefathers were willing to lay their lives on the line to declare that Christ and the church were before their own selfish wills.

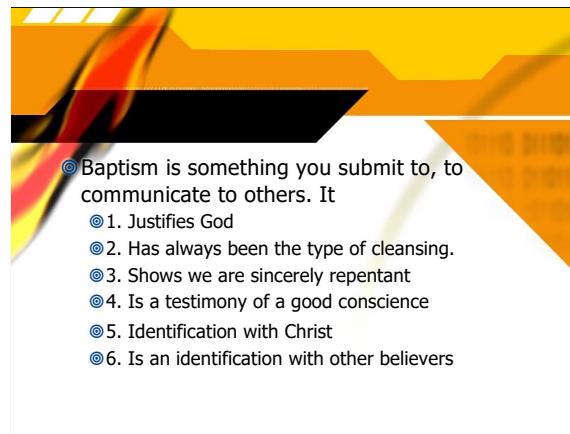
Why is it that we do not baptize ourselves?



It seems that baptism carries the idea of being approved by someone else.

We are not baptized just as a ceremony to enter the church, we are baptized because of our confession of Christ. It is not a party in that we have succeeded, but it is a time to say that God has succeeded. It is not that we now approve of God, it is that we now believe that God approves of us.

I believe that I can never baptize someone whose commitment is not real



1. Justifies God, here we see it was an act to accept or to reject God. Justify means to

- 1) to render righteous or such he ought to be
- 2) to show, exhibit one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered
- 3) to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

29* And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

30* But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

2. Water has always been the type of cleansing.

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

This is not an operation that cleanses you, but is symbolic of the operation that does. Constantine, the Roman emperor who made Christianity the state religion in the fourth century, reportedly postponed his baptism until he was on his deathbed. We presume that he hoped all his sins would be washed away just before he died.

3. Sincerely repentant

John the Baptist said:

Matt. 3:7 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?

Matt. 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

Acts 2:38 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.

4. Testimony of a good conscience

1Pet. 3:21 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:

To others:

Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

5. Identification with Christ

Rom. 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Rom. 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom. 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Rom. 6:4 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.

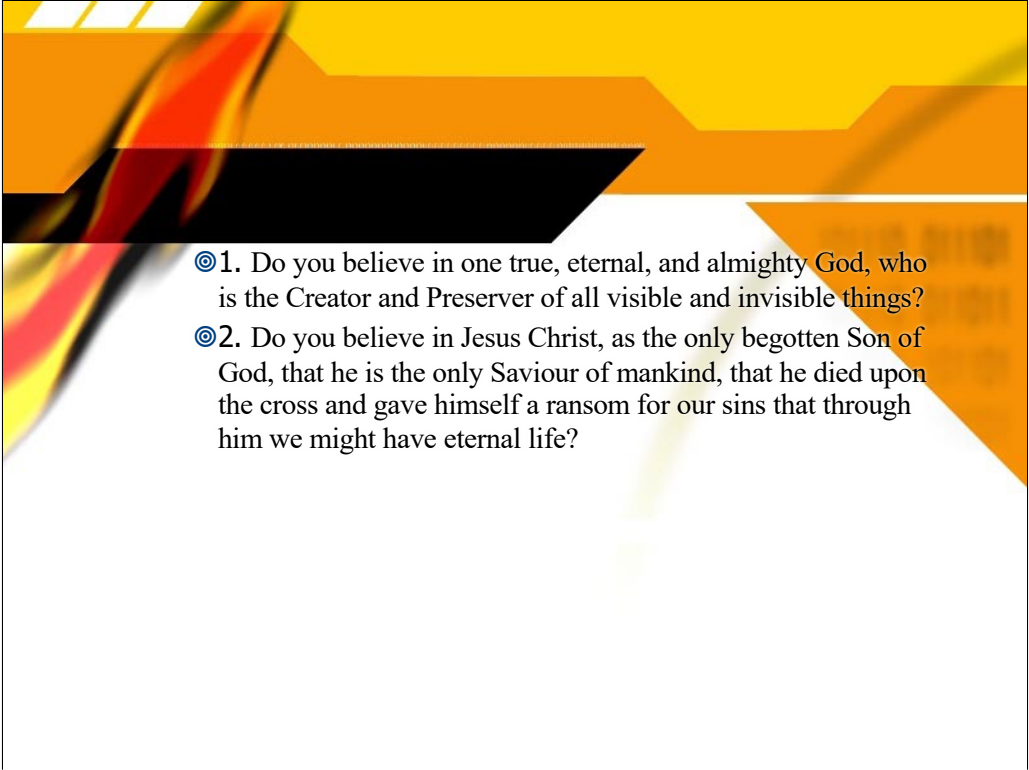
6. Identification with other believers

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand

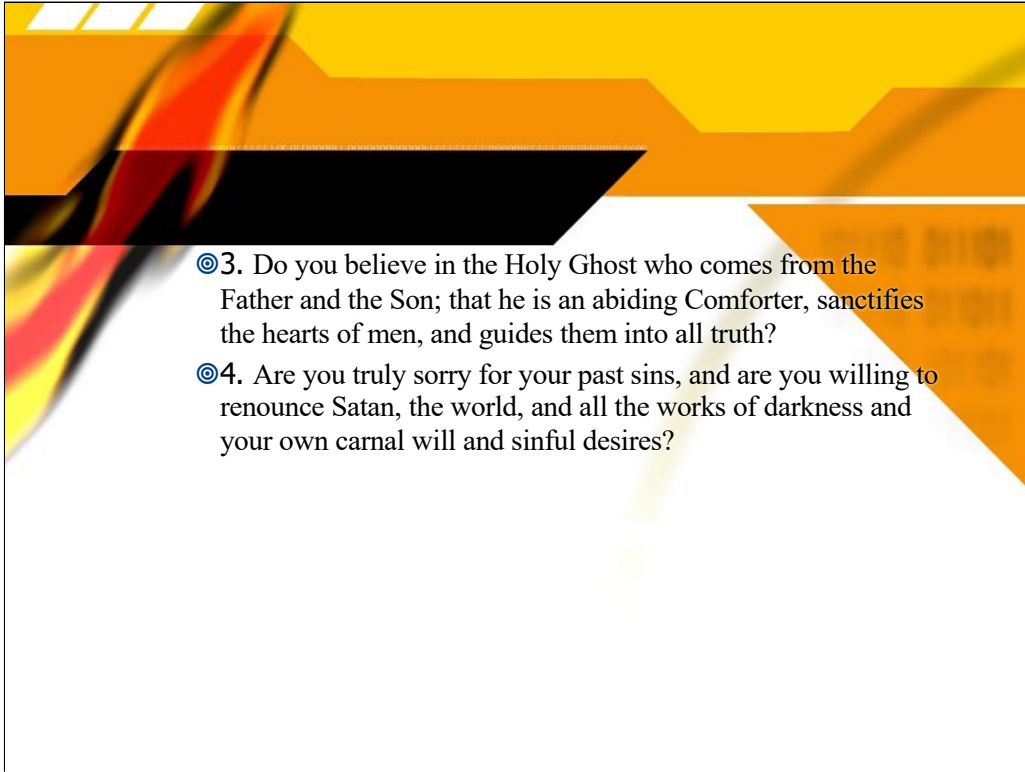


Life is a series of movements in some direction.

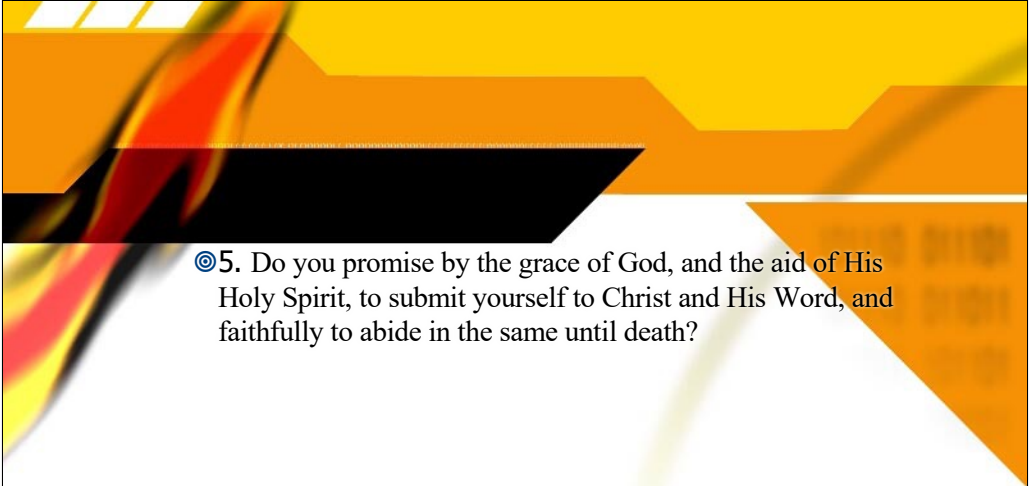
Heb 6:1* Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on** unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

- 
- ⦿1. Do you believe in one true, eternal, and almighty God, who is the Creator and Preserver of all visible and invisible things?
 - ⦿2. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, as the only begotten Son of God, that he is the only Saviour of mankind, that he died upon the cross and gave himself a ransom for our sins that through him we might have eternal life?

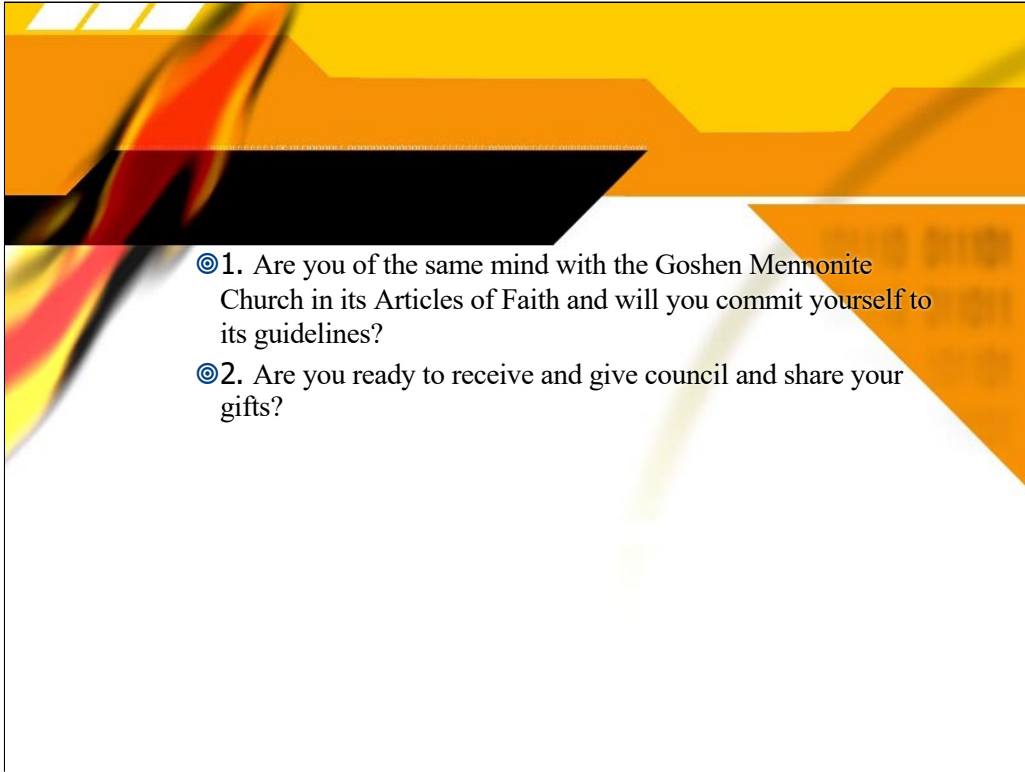
The first question has to do with God the Father,
the second question has to do with God the Son,
the third question has to do with God the Holy Spirit,
the forth question has to do with repentance,
the fifth question has to do with commitment to God,
and the last two have to do with commitment to the church and to the Lord's service.



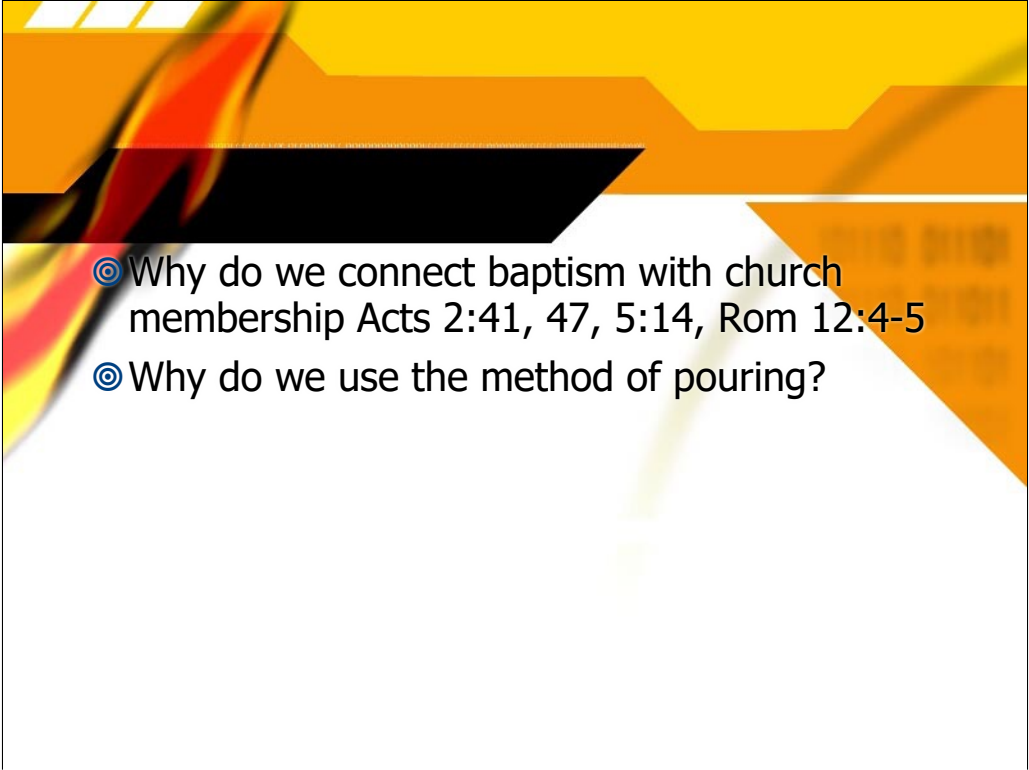
- ⦿3. Do you believe in the Holy Ghost who comes from the Father and the Son; that he is an abiding Comforter, sanctifies the hearts of men, and guides them into all truth?
- ⦿4. Are you truly sorry for your past sins, and are you willing to renounce Satan, the world, and all the works of darkness and your own carnal will and sinful desires?



⦿5. Do you promise by the grace of God, and the aid of His Holy Spirit, to submit yourself to Christ and His Word, and faithfully to abide in the same until death?



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- © Why do we connect baptism with church membership Acts 2:41, 47, 5:14, Rom 12:4-5
 - © Why do we use the method of pouring?

Baptism is the first step of accountability. It is real people being accountable to real people.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:47

And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Acts 5:14

Romans 12:4-5

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

We use pouring because it is the mode that is used with the Holy Spirit.

It is poured out upon us. Actually, when the things used in the OT worship were “baptized” they were sprinkled.

It seems that the water is what is handled, not the person.

But it is the testimony of submission to God and the accepting of that sign to your testimony that makes it valid.