

BUILDING TO CODE
AUGUST 19, 2018

MATTHEW 7:24-27

INTRODUCTION: When hurricane Andrew hit Florida, TV networks captured the image of a lone house standing firmly in its place among an entire neighborhood of debris. When asked why was his the only house still standing, the owner replied: “I built this house myself. I built it according to the Florida state building code. When the code called for 2” X 6” roof trusses, I used 2” X 6” roof trusses. When it called for screws, I used screws. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane. I did, and it did. I suppose no one else around here followed the code.

This story illustrates what Jesus taught in our text. We can build our lives according to His code or we can use the code of religion, the world or man’s teachings. A wise man believes Jesus.

HEBREWS 6:1-2 - SIX FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Repentance from dead works, Faith toward God, Baptisms, Laying on of hands, Resurrection of the dead and Eternal judgment.

THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

1. Into the Body of Christ. **1 CORINTHIANS 12:13** The Spirit is the baptizer. When a sinner repents and believes in the finished work of Christ, the Holy Spirit baptizes him into the Body of Christ.
2. Water baptism. **ACTS 8:35-38** Philip was the baptizer. To qualify, the Eunuch had to believe.
3. With the Holy Spirit. **MATTHEW 3:11** Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Ghost. This baptism is for power.

WATER BAPTISM

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NLT) – Jesus emphasized three things: Make disciples, baptize, teach obedience, obviously, Jesus sees these as extremely important.

THE BOOK OF ACTS – ACTS 2:38

There’s a close connection between belief and baptism. **ACTS 2:41, 8:12, 8:36-38, 10:47-48, 16:30-34, 18:8, 19:1-5** – Notice how they fulfilled the great commission.

PRINCIPLES TO NOTE

1. Baptism doesn’t save. **EPHESIANS 2:8-9**
 - A. Saving faith involves believing the gospel. **ROMANS 10:8-13**
 - B. Infant baptism is not scriptural and doesn’t remove original sin. Infants have nothing to repent of, can’t believe the gospel and go to heaven if they die. **2 SAMUEL 12:23**
2. Baptism is an act of obedience motivated by a changed heart.
 - A. **MATTHEW 3:13-15 (NLT)** – Even Jesus obeyed God’s building code.
 - B. If the heart has been genuinely changed by saving faith, there will be evidence of it.
 - A longing to know Christ better. **PHILIPPIANS 3:8**
 - A desire to please God. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:9 (ESV)**
 - A hatred for sin and whatever God hates. **PROVERBS 6:16-19**
3. Baptism matters.
 - A. It tells the Lord we love Him and want to obey Him. **JOHN 14:21**
 - B. It identifies us with Christ. **ROMANS 6:4-6, ISAIAH 52:14 (GW)**
 - C. It enables God to draw closer to us. **JAMES 4:8**
 - D. It pleases God. **MATTHEW 3:16-17**

CONCLUSION: Saving faith changes the heart and moves us to obey God in all areas of our lives, including water baptism.