

# **BENEFITS OF BAPTISM**

**MARCH 19, 2023**

## **INTRO: MT. 28:19-20**

Before His ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples to do two things-teach and baptize. Teach people to observe His commands and baptize in the name of the Godhead. In **ACTS 2:37-38**, Peter did what Jesus commissioned him to do. Water baptism isn't merely a religious ritual, it's an act of obedience to God's command.

### **Baptism of Jesus (Mt. 3:13-17)**

Jesus is the only person in history who didn't need baptized. Why? Because He never sinned and had nothing to repent of. He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and reveal the benefits of water baptism.

### **The Last Adam (1 COR. 15:45-48)**

Jesus came to start a new race of the freed, forgiven, and obedient. He came, lived a sinless life, and was water baptized to fulfill all righteousness. In doing so, He set an example for those who desire to be a part of this new race to follow, and revealed the benefits provided for doing so.

### **The Benefits**

- 1.)** The heavens are opened. Opened (Gr.) means a tearing open, not merely a slit. Something happens in the invisible realm when one is water baptized. It's something dynamic and impacting. It's like a spiritual breakthrough in perception, or an opening of the eyes to spiritual realities.
- 2.)** The ministry of the spirit is activated. This new race has access to the working and resources of the spirit. Only the prophet, priest and king had access under the Old Testament.

Now we can be spirit filled, enabled and empowered to do God's work as His spirit equips, anoints and appoints us.

3.) Experience God's divine pleasure. For Jesus to be baptized was an act of humility and submission. The Father was well pleased.

- By identifying with Christ in baptism, we, too, are humbling ourselves and submitting ourselves before God.
- Because of our faith in Christ, the Father sees us as He sees Jesus-free, forgiven, and obedient.
- In God's eyes, we are debt free, guilt free, righteous, and holy children, and He is well-pleased with us as He is with Jesus.
- Usually when people come up out of the water, a wonderful feeling comes upon them. That wonderful feeling is God's divine pleasure embracing them.

### **Conclusion:**

Being water baptized opens the heavens to us, activates the spirit's ministry in us and invokes God's pleasure upon us. If you haven't received Christ, then repent, be baptized and receive all the benefits and resources God has made available to everyone.