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BAPTISM vs. SPRINKLING AND POURING.

By J. W. Denton.

Baptism is a noun, baptize is a verb. Verbs express action, nouns name things. Hence baptism is the name of the act expressed by the verb baptize.

In immersion you handle the person. In sprinkling and pouring you handle the element (water) and do not touch the person. No two acts can be more dissimilar. In the one act you handle the element and sprinkle it (the element). In the other you handle the person and not the element. One will have to draw on the imagination wonderfully to see the same thing done.

If the first act (sprinkling) is baptizing and the name of said act is baptism, the second act differs in every respect from the first act. Hence the second act differs in every respect from the act baptizing (if sprinkling is baptizing), hence could not possibly be baptizing, and could not be called baptism.

Any one who will think knows this to be true. If the act "sprinkle" is baptize, then, of course, the act "baptize" is sprinkle. Any act that would differ from this act would differ from the act "baptize," hence could not mean baptism.

But as sprinkling (with some) is baptizing, then baptizing is sprinkling. Then let us read it baptize instead of sprinkle. Then we would read thus, "And the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and baptize of the blood seven times before the Lord. * * * And shall pour (baptize) all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar." Thus we see the blood was baptized, and not the altar at all.

Why? Because he handled the element and not the altar. He did not baptize the altar, but he did baptize (sprinkle and pour) the blood. Hence he only baptized the blood if "sprinkling" and "pouring" are baptizing.

Again: "Then will I sprinkle (baptize) clean water upon you." What was baptized? Answer. Some clean water! Were the people baptized? Oh, no. Some clean water was baptized upon the people!

Again God says, "I will pour (baptize) out of my Spirit." What was baptized? Why Spirit was baptized out of Spirit! This is growing nicely ridiculous. Yet this is the way it must read if sprinkling and pouring are baptizing. "He baptized him." He sprinkled (baptized) water upon him. Did he baptize him? No, he just baptized some water upon him! "And he poured (baptized) water upon him! In each instance Phillip baptized water upon him; i. e., he baptized water and not "him."

Now put it, "He dipped (baptized) him." And you have Phillip's baptizing the person and not the water. "He immersed (baptized) him."

Again, Phillip handled the person and not the element. "He baptized him." You have the same; i. e., Phillip handling the person and not the element, hence doing the very thing God said do.

The word "sprinkle" is never associated with the word "baptize" anywhere in the Bible, neither is the word "pour." The objecter says, "God said I will pour out of My Spirit." Also, "You shall be baptized with (in) the Holy Spirit." Here they say the word "pour" is associated with "baptize." I answer, not true. If pouring is the baptizing, then the baptizing took place in heaven. "I will pour (baptize) out of My Spirit." See The pouring took place in heaven, the falling of the Spirit was the result of pouring (baptizing). The baptizing (overwhelming) was the result of the falling. If the pouring is the baptizing—i. e., the act "pouring" is the baptizing, then the baptizing took place where the act pouring took place, and as that act took place in heaven, then the baptizing took place in heaven. The falling of the Spirit is no part of the act "pouring," but is a result—an effect of the cause, and hence is not the cause or the baptizing.

Pour means to "empty out in a stream." Hence the act—emptying out in a stream—is the pouring. The falling of the stream is the effect of the pouring, but is no part of the pouring itself. Hence if pouring is baptizing, the baptizing takes place before the water ever touches the person! And this is equally true of sprinkling. But when

you dip or immerse persons, you handle the persons and baptize them. You neither sprinkle nor pour water, but baptize them.

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