

## Step by Step - Section 29

*“And concerning baptism, ((you shall)) baptise in this manner:*

*Having first taught all of these things, baptise in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, in living water. ([Dalin text reads: water blessed by the Living Spirit])*

*But if you have no living water ((blessed by the Spirit)), baptise in other water ((preferably cold)); and if you cannot do so in cold water, do so in warm.*

*But if you have neither, pour water three times upon the head in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ([Dalin text reads: "But if you do not have enough water, pour a little water three times on the head...."])*

*But before the baptism let the baptiser fast, as well as the one desiring to be baptised, and if possible whoever else is in the company of the one to be baptised; but you shall at least order the one who desires to be baptised to fast one or two days before their baptism ((between the rising and setting of the sun)).”*

This section tells us how to go about the process of baptism, the central points:

**\*Having first taught all of these things**

**\*Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in living water**

**\*Let the Baptiser and the person being baptized fast at least one or 2 days before their baptism**

We look at the process of someone entering a covenant with Yeshua. A mad dash to dunk people and get them saved is definitely not what God wants for disciples.

No, the instruction “having learned all these things” is in relation to all of the teachings of the Way of Life and the prohibitions regarding the Way of Death contained within the Didache. This means the person should not have a superficial knowledge of the Halakha of Messiah but must have taken a serious interest, shown by their study of the Way of Life.

If a person did not have such serious and committed nature, then the end product would be believers of weak character who are unclear of what even the essentials are of their newfound faith.

Look to the world of people today who claim to be followers of Messiah who live a faith entirely separate from the way of Life outlined in the Didache. Since the this way of life is the only one Sanctioned by the Apostles themselves, the fact that so many people do not live in this manner is a sad testament to the nature of the modern believer and shows

as a severe falling away of individuals and congregations from the original apostolic lifestyle that has occurred over the ages.

When a person has learned the Way of Life, they would then be baptized.

In the next section “Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in living water” there are several other instructions about this process:

1. The preferred environment for this sacrament is that it be performed in living water. Most other translations of the Didache do not understand the meaning of this phrase and assume that living water means “Rushing water” as in a river or stream, but in point of fact, “Living Water” means that the water has been blessed by Holy Spirit. This would be any body of water that a servant of God prayed over calling down the Shekinah upon the waters. We would refer to this as “Holy Water”.
2. If a body of Holy Water was not available, then the next option would be any body of Cold water.
3. If a body of Cold Water is not available, then the next option would be any body of Warm Water.
4. The final option regarding baptism is if you don’t have a body of water at all. In this case, the final option is the baptizer uses what water they have. Enough to be poured over the individual’s head 3 times.

All of this is not to show a baptism could be done essentially under any circumstance, as long as you had a baptizer and someone seeking to be baptized.

**Note:** This information lays to rest all of the arguments about “What type of baptism” is acceptable. Too many people have wasted time saying “Only a full immersion baptism” is acceptable, or “You only have to pour water on the head”. There are ideal situations and there are acceptable situations, if the circumstances permit, the ideal is a full body immersion in Holy Water. If not, then the next option is taken and so on. There is never a point where a person simply does not have a baptism or is denied a baptism because they cannot do a full body immersion or they cannot find just the right kind of body of water and so on. Once a person is ready to commit themselves to Messiah, a Baptism should be as soon as possible, without the made up rules about what is and what is not acceptable. The only “unacceptable” baptism is one not performed by an authorized baptizer or one where the baptism is not performed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Both the Baptizer and the person to be baptized are expected to fast at least one full day before the baptism. This would be by Jewish fasting observance which is from sundown to sundown. Anytime you read about fasting in relation to Judaism, and this would include the followers of Yeshua, the fast follows the Jewish Day, which is from sundown to sundown. A Jewish fast was to abstain from both food and water during the sunlight hours.

Unless a Jewish fast specifically spells out what you are fasting from, the general rule is that it is a complete fast, going without food or water during the daylight hours during that fasting period.

Family and friends who are welcoming the individual into the faith, may share in this process with them.

**What to take from this:** If I want to be a Disciple, I need to learn what the faith actually teaches first. I will then seek to be baptized in the three fold manner. I will fast at least one day before my baptism.

**Practice:** If you have not been baptized, study the Didache and then contact the Religious leader of your house of worship. Most congregations will have a catechumen's class, and only do baptisms once or twice a year. Others do baptisms daily and require no formal training.

Once you have studied the faith, there really is no reason to wait 6 months to a year to become baptized, such restrictions are arbitrary and are not what Yeshua or the Apostles ever taught but sadly, if you want to be accepted by that congregation, they will probably insist you follow their rules on how the baptism takes place. But know that it is not Yeshua's will that you have to wait, but the decision of people and their own customs. On the other hand, be wary of many of the baptizers who are eager to baptize you but do not call you to study the Way of Life (if they even know what this is). Baptism is important but knowing the faith that you adopt is more important.