THE QUESTION

# Did the early church teach that we are born again in water baptism?

*Asked by a THF member on August 9, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 40 early Christian passages and 170 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.*

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-teach-that-we-are-born-again-in-water-baptism

## The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Yes. Early writers taught that in water baptism, joined with the Spirit, a person is born again, has past sins forgiven, dies to the old life and puts on Christ. Many tied the gift of the Spirit to baptism and the laying on of hands. They also spoke of a baptism of blood for martyrs.

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| **HOW IT WAS MADE** | Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith. |
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POINT 1 OF 7

## New birth happens in water and Spirit

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Irenaeus compares Naaman's washing to our baptism: we are cleansed and spiritually reborn like newborn babies. Justin describes new believers being brought to water and regenerated just as the church members were before them.

**1** “For just as we are lepers in sin, we are made clean by means of the sacred water and the invocation of the Lord from our old transgressions, being spiritually regenerated as newborn babes, just as the Lord has declared: "Unless a man is born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**2** “Then, they are brought by us to water and are regenerated in the same way we were.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 2 OF 7

## Past sins are forgiven in baptism

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Justin says the one who chooses new birth and repents receives forgiveness of past sins in the water. Theophilus sees a sign of this in creation: people receive repentance and forgiveness through the washing of regeneration.

**3** “Since at birth we were born without our own knowledge or choice, due to our parents coming together, and were raised with bad habits and wicked training; so that we may not remain children of necessity and ignorance, but may become children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission of sins previously committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over the one who chooses to be born again and has repented of sins.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

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**4** “Also, the things that come from the waters were blessed by God, so that this too might be a sign that human beings are meant to receive repentance and forgiveness of sins through the water and washing of regeneration—as many as come to the truth, are born again, and receive blessing from God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 16 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 3 OF 7

## The old self dies with Christ

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Cyprian says baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born. The Apostolic Constitutions call the water a symbol of Christ's death, and speak of the one baptized as dying together with Christ.

**5** “For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 26, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**6** “In this way, the anointing with oil may be the participation of the Holy Spirit, the water the symbol of the death of Christ, and the ointment the seal of the covenants.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 29, page 8** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 4 OF 7

## The baptized put on Christ

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Cyprian quotes Paul to say that those baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his view, the person whose sins are washed away is remade as a new man and made ready to receive the Holy Spirit.

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**7** “For the one who has been sanctified, with his sins taken away in baptism, and has been spiritually remade into a new man, has become fit to receive the Holy Spirit, since the apostle says, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 22, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 5 OF 7

## The baptized are filled with the Spirit

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

The Apostolic Constitutions say church leaders regenerate people by water and fill them with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Hippolytus says Christ came to wash people with water and the Spirit, so they are born again and clothed with life.

**8** “They have regenerated you by water and filled you with the fullness of the Holy Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 31, page 8** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

**9** “He came to man in order to wash him with water and the Spirit.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 15, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

POINT 6 OF 7

## Hands were laid on to invite the Spirit

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Tertullian describes hands being laid on the newly baptized to call down the Spirit. Cyprian explains that the new birth happens in baptism, and the Spirit is then received, just as God formed Adam before breathing life into him.

**10** “Next, hands are laid on us, calling on and inviting the Holy Spirit through blessing.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Baptism* 8 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
*THF's updated English*

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**11** “But further, a person is not born through the laying on of hands when he receives the Holy Spirit, but in baptism.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD)
*THF's updated English*
**Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 7

## They also spoke of other baptisms

***Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say***

Cyprian calls martyrdom a second baptism, of blood, that brings the crown. The Treatise on Re-Baptism notes that in Acts the Spirit was given to believers before water baptism, though they were still baptized afterward.

**12** “In the baptism of water, the remission of sins is received; in the baptism of blood, the crown of virtues.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
*THF's updated English*
**Source 27, page 8** Read it in the library ›

**13** “Further, as you are not ignorant, the Holy Spirit is found to have been given by the Lord without baptism of water to men who believe, as it is written in Acts of the Apostles in this way: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1
*THF's updated English*
**Source 38, page 8** Read it in the library ›

THE LIMITS

## What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle exactly how the gift of the Spirit at baptism relates to the Spirit given by the laying on of hands.
- They describe practices from several places and do not show one single rite used by every church.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

# The Sources

The 40 early Christian passages and 170 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–40, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 41–82, in Bible order), then 128 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

## EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *40 passages from 17 writers*

**Barnabas**, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

**1** *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 2) indeed descend into the water full of sins and defilement, but come up, bearing fruit in our heart, having the fear of God and trust in Jesus in our spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

**Hermas**, *c. 90–150 AD · source 2*

**2** *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 2) heard, sir, some teachers maintain that there is no other repentance than that which takes place, when we descended into the water and received remission of our former sins… [continues online] **read ›**

**Ignatius of Antioch**, *c. 98–117 AD · source 3*

**3** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* "was born and baptized, that by His passion He might purify the water… [continues online] **read ›**

**Justin Martyr**, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 4–6*

**4** *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "they are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated in the same manner in which we were ourselves regenerated… [continues online] **read ›**

**5** *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** "order that we may not remain the children of necessity and of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and knowledge, and may obtain in the water the remission… [continues online] **read ›**

**6** *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 7) "need have I of that other baptism, who have been baptized with the Holy Ghost… [continues online] **read ›**

**Theophilus of Antioch**, *c. 169–183 AD · source 7*

**7** *To Autolycus* 16 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "the things proceeding from the waters were blessed by God, that this also might be a sign of men's being destined to receive repentance and remission of sins, through… [continues online] **read ›**

**Irenaeus**, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 8–10*

**8** *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "spiritually regenerated as new-born babes, even as the Lord has declared: "Except a man be born again through water and the Spirit, he shall not enter into the kingdom… [continues online] **read ›**

**9** *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 7) "therefore did he exclaim, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" He persuaded, at the same… [continues online] **read ›**

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**10** *Against Heresies: Book V* (1885 English; on point 1) “inasmuch as man, with respect to that formation which, was after Adam, having fallen into transgression, needed the laver of regeneration, [the Lord] said to him [upon whom He had… [continues online] **read ›**

### Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 11*

**11** *Instructor* 1.6 (on point 2) human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the Word. We are washed from all our sins and are no longer… [continues online] **read ›**

### Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 12–14*

**12** *On Baptism* 8 (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 4** “the waters of baptism, recognising as it were His primeval seat, He reposes: (He who) glided down on the Lord in the shape of a dove, in order that the… [continues online] **read ›**

**13** *On Baptism* 10 “same nature. Otherwise, if it had been celestial, it would have given both the Holy Spirit and remission of sins. But no one either pardons sins or freely grants the… [continues online] **read ›**

**14** *On Baptism* 9 with all his forces, Exodus 14:27-30. What figure is more clearly fulfilled in the sacrament of baptism? The nations are set free from the world by means of… [continues online] **read ›**

### Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 15–16*

**15** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “water and the Holy Ghost. This is the water in conjunction with the Spirit, by which paradise is watered, by which the earth is enriched, by which plants grow, by… [continues online] **read ›**

**16** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 “baptize with the baptism of repentance, but He confers the gift of adoption. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire… [continues online] **read ›**

### Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 17–19*

**17** *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 2) repentance,” teaching that the benefit of baptism is connected with the intention of the person baptized. To him who repents it is salutary, but to him who comes to it… [continues online] **read ›**

**18** *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 7) very well stumble over the explanation given above about the Jordan. John says, “I baptize with water, but He who comes after me is stronger than I. He will baptize… [continues online] **read ›**

**19** *Commentary on John* 6 (1885 English; on point 2) “it is for forgiveness of sins that this washing is given… [continues online] **read ›**

### Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 20*

**20** *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* (1885 English; on point 5) “they had already previously received the Holy Spirit from that very baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

### Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 21*

**21** *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 29 (1885 English; on point 1) “it is who effects with water the second birth as a certain seed of divine generation, and a consecration of a heavenly nativity, the pledge of a promised inheritance, and… [continues online] **read ›**

### Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 22–27*

**22** *Epistles* **Quote 7, page 4** Or if they say that the power of baptism comes from the greatness of the name, so that those who are baptized anywhere and in any way, in the name… [continues online] **read ›**

**23** *Epistles* (on point 2) Since in baptism each person has his own sins forgiven, the Lord proves and declares in His Gospel that sins can be taken away only by those who have the… [continues online] **read ›**

**24** *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “But further, one is not born by the imposition of hands when he receives the Holy Ghost, but in baptism, that so, being already born, he may receive the Holy… [continues online] **read ›**

**25** *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 5) “by baptism the Holy Spirit is received… [continues online] **read ›**

**26** *Epistles* **Quote 5, page 3** “are not born in the Church can be sons of God! For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man… [continues online] **read ›**

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**27** *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 12, page 5** “and teaching that this is a baptism greater in grace, more lofty in power, more precious in honour— a baptism wherein angels baptize— a baptism in which God and His… [continues online] **read ›**

### Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 28–33*

**28** *Apostolic Constitutions* on that day, at the third hour, the Lord Jesus sent on us the gift of the Holy Ghost, and we were filled with… [continues online] **read ›**

**29** *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 6, page 3** But first you shall anoint the person with the holy oil, and afterward baptize him with water, and at the end you shall seal him with the ointment. In this… [continues online] **read ›**

**30** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) be satisfied with one baptism only, the one into the death of the Lord; not the one given by wicked heretics, but the one given by blameless priests, in the… [continues online] **read ›**

**31** *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “20:12 and, He that curses his father or his mother, let him die the death… [continues online] **read ›**

**32** *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 3) baptism, therefore, is given into the death of Jesus… [continues online] **read ›**

**33** *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

### Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 34*

**34** *Writings* (on point 1) “baptism, the coarse dress of your birth is washed… [continues online] **read ›**

### Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 35*

**35** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 2) “said: "Is baptism, then, given on account of the remission of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

### Anonymous · *sources 36–40*

**36** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 6) to be so, what do you think, my brother? If a man is not baptized by a bishop in such a way as to receive the laying on of hands… [continues online] **read ›**

**37** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 also, if we look at the opposite side of this discussion: those disciples of our Lord themselves received the Holy Spirit afterward. They had already been baptized. Then at last… [continues online] **read ›**

**38** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 **Quote 13, page 5** “Further, as you are not ignorant, the Holy Spirit is found to… [continues online] **read ›**

**39** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 (on point 7) “which I am baptized?" (Mark 10:38). For He knew that those men had to be baptized not only with water, but also in their own blood. So, being well… [continues online] **read ›**

**40** *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 Therefore, for those who begin a discussion of saving and new baptism, that is, spiritual and evangelical baptism, the first thing that comes before them is the announcement that is… [continues online] **read ›**

## THE BIBLE *42 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

**41** **Matthew 3:6** They were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. **read ›**

**42** **Mark 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. **read ›**

**43** **Mark 1:5** All the country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and they were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **read ›**

**44** **Mark 1:8** I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” **read ›**

**45** **Mark 2:5** Jesus, seeing their faithfulness, said to the paralyzed man, “Child, your sins are forgiven you.” **read ›**

**46** **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

**47** **John 1:33** I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and remaining, he is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ **read ›**

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48 **John 3:3** Jesus answered him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **read ›**

49 **John 3:5** Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **read ›**

50 **John 3:7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must all be born anew.’ **read ›**

51 **John 7:39** But he said this about the Spirit, which those believing in him were to receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **read ›**

52 **John 20:22** When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit! **read ›**

53 **Acts 1:5** for John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **read ›**

54 **Acts 1:16** “Brothers, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **read ›**

55 **Acts 2:4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. **read ›**

56 **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

57 **Acts 4:4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. **read ›**

58 **Acts 8:15** who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit; **read ›**

59 **Acts 8:17** Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

60 **Acts 10:47** “Can anyone withhold the water, so that these people who received the Holy Spirit just as we did should not be baptized?” **read ›**

61 **Acts 11:2** When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision contended with him, **read ›**

62 **Acts 11:16** I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ **read ›**

63 **Acts 12:3** When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This was during the days of unleavened bread. **read ›**

64 **Acts 15:8** God, who knows the heart, testified about them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. **read ›**

65 **Acts 19:2** He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said to him, “We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” **read ›**

66 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**

67 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” **read ›**

68 **Acts 19:6** When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **read ›**

69 **Acts 22:16** Now why do you wait? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ **read ›**

70 **Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **read ›**

71 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**

72 **Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who dwells in you. **read ›**

73 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

74 **1 Corinthians 12:9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **read ›**

75 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

76 **Ephesians 1:20** which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, **read ›**

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77 **Ephesians 2:2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. **read ›**

78 **Ephesians 3:14** For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **read ›**

79 **Ephesians 5:26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **read ›**

80 **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **read ›**

81 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

82 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

## ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *128 verses, by reference*

*Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.*

**Genesis** 9:18

**Exodus** 15:25 · 32:34

**Deuteronomy** 32:10 · 32:23

**Joshua** 3:5 · 3:7 · 5:10

**Psalms** 18:26 · 110:4

**Isaiah** 1:18

**Jeremiah** 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8

**Ezekiel** 47:1

**Matthew** 3:7 · 3:11 · 3:13 · 3:15 · 3:16 · 3:17 · 4:3 · 5:17 · 9:29 · 10:16 · 10:42 · 14:25 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 21:32 · 25:29 · 27:24 · 28:19

**Mark** 1:10 · 2:8 · 4:36 · 5:9 · 10:38 · 11:30 · 14:27 · 16:16

**Luke** 1:76 · 3:22 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 10:35 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 20:4

**John** 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:17 · 1:26 · 2:1 · 3:9 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 4:6 · 4:10 · 5:8 · 6:40 · 6:53 · 7:37 · 7:38 · 8:42 · 9:7 · 13:1 · 14:16 · 14:18 · 15:20 · 16:6 · 16:13 · 19:34 · 19:37

**Acts** 1:4 · 2:17 · 4:12 · 5:31 · 10:42 · 10:44 · 11:15 · 15:7 · 15:9 · 19:1

**Romans** 8:5 · 8:7 · 8:9 · 10:10

**1 Corinthians** 1:18 · 1:20 · 2:12 · 4:13 · 7:14 · 7:40 · 12:3 · 12:8 · 13:11 · 14:20

**2 Corinthians** 1:21 · 4:13 · 5:5 · 5:21 · 6:16 · 7:1

**Galatians** 1:15 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 5:17

**Ephesians** 2:10 · 5:8

**Philippians** 2:7

**Colossians** 1:25

**1 Thessalonians** 4:8

**1 Timothy** 1:4 · 2:8 · 4:1

**Hebrews** 6:4 · 10:26 · 12:16

**1 John** 3:9 · 5:8

**Revelation** 22:1

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*Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.*

## ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did the early church teach that we are born again in water baptism?” on August 9, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

**Library only.** This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

**How it was made.** Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

**How to cite this study.** The Historic Faith, “Did the early church teach that we are born again in water baptism?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-the-early-church-teach-that-we-are-born-again-in-water-baptism. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 8.”

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THE END OF THIS STUDY