

## The power of the Holy Spirit, not water, baptizes believers into Christ

### Paul admonishes the Ephesian church:

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph 4:1-6, NASB).

Dr. Noah Hutchings in ***Why So Many Churches*** discusses “one baptism” in Paul’s text:

“Some attempt to explain the baptism referred to in this Scripture as “water baptism,” but Dr. Kenneth Wuest, the noted Greek Scholar stated:

Why should all the other words [in Eph 4:1-6] be *translated* and this alone [*hen baptisma*, one baptism] be *transliterated*? Why should the A.V. [KJV] and commentators *transliterate* the word, interpreting the Greek word as referring to the rite of water baptism when the entire **context** [of the passage] **is supernatural**, even to the faith exercised by the believer in appropriating salvation? The words *translated* are ‘one placing into.’ That is, **in response to our act of faith, we were placed by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ of which Christ is the Head**” (emphasis added).”

“Dr. Wuest contends that the Greek text indicates **believers are put into the body by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, not by water baptism**. This is consistent with other statements by Paul on the subject: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” (1Cor 12:13).

(N.W. Hutchings, ***Why So Many Churches?*** (Oklahoma City, OK: Hearthstone Publishing, Ltd., 1992), 139-140.)