

## Water and Blood (John 5:6)

What does the water refer to in John 5:6? proponents of baptismal regeneration tell us that it is baptism.

What is the context? Well first of what is very notable is what is missing - baptism. This passage has absolutely nothing to do with baptism when we look at the context. Let's look at the context starting with the introduction to the chapter:

*1 John 5:1*

*5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.*

*NKJV*

Everyone who believes in Jesus is saved. Baptism is not even mentioned. This theme is emphasized as we go on.

*1 John 5:5*

*5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

*NKJV*

Then in this context, we read:

*1 John 5:6-8*

*6 This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.*

*NKJV*

The context says absolutely nothing about water baptism, but even if we were to claim that it had something to do with baptism, what baptism did Jesus come with? The only water baptism that Jesus received in His lifetime on earth in the flesh was the baptism of John the Baptist - was this required for Jesus to be saved? No, we are told that it was a pre-cursor (prophetic symbol) of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

*Mark 1:8*

*8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

*NKJV*

But water, in this context has another symbolic meaning in scripture.

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*John 3:5-7*

*5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

*NKJV*

Note that he equates the water with the flesh, being born in the flesh, and being born again with being born in the spirit. Therefore Jesus came with flesh and blood. What are the symbols that we use in the celebration of the Lord's supper? They are the bread (symbolic of the flesh) and the wine (symbolic of the blood).

Further, how does scripture say that we are born again? It is through receiving Jesus as Saviour. How did Jesus provide salvation? Through His death and resurrection on the cross, and in Romans 6 we are told that baptism is the likeness (symbolic) of His death and resurrection on the cross.

*Rom 6:5-8*

*5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

*NKJV*

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