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## Baptisms

Hebrews 6:1 -2 "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation...of the doctrine of baptisms..."

A word study of baptisms given in the New Testament yields 8 types.

Type of Baptism	Number of Occurrences	Example
John's baptism (water baptism)	33	Mark 1:4-5
Water baptism; in Jesus' name, also in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	29	Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-4
Baptism in the Holy Spirit (and fire)	10	Matthew 3:11
Ceremonial washing	2	Mark 7:4
Baptism in Moses	2	1 Corinthians 10:2
Baptism into Jesus' Body	1	1 Corinthians 12:13
Baptism of suffering	1	Luke 12:50
Baptism for the dead	1	1 Corinthians 15:29

Which baptisms are elementary principles of Christ? We can eliminate 5 from the list:

- 1) John's baptism. Acts 19:1-8 clearly eliminates the necessity of this for the believer in Christ.
- 2) Ceremonial washings while not forbidden by scripture, are clearly not indicated as necessary for our spiritual growth by Jesus. See Matt. 15:1-20. This also is not an elementary principle of Christ.
- 3) Baptism in Moses. 1 Cor. 10:2 discusses a historic event not something for us currently.
- 4) Baptism of suffering. Pertains to Christ in Luke 12:50. Although all who are godly in Christ will suffer (2 Tim. 3:12), a baptism of suffering is not mentioned anywhere as an experience for a believer.
- 5) Baptism for the dead. The meaning of this expression is unclear. It could mean proxy baptism. Another possibility is the baptism of a recent convert out of respect and affection for a dead Christian relation or friend. In any case, building a doctrine on any single verse is unwise. We discard this as well.

**CONCLUSION:** The baptisms that are the elementary principles of Christ are water baptism, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and baptism into the body of Christ.

Baptism	Agent	Medium	Verse
Water	Person (minister)	Water	Matt. 28:19
Spirit	Jesus	Holy Spirit	Matt. 3:11
Body of Christ	Holy Spirit	Jesus	1 Cor. 12:13