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**Monday, August 4, 1997**

**Subject:** Multiple baptisms

**Dear Dr. Ryrie:** Can a person be baptized two times? --Sohnasem G.

**Dear Sohnasem:** The only clear example in the New Testament of people being baptized twice with water is the 12 disciples who had been baptized by John the Baptizer and then by Paul at Ephesus after they had learned about the Lord and the Spirit. But there were likely others who were baptized twice with water. For example, any proselyte to Judaism would have been baptized, and if there were some proselytes present on the Day of Pentecost, they would have been baptized again. In these cases, they were not Christians (even the disciples of John) until they heard the message of Christ, so their first baptism was not a Christian baptism. Today, if someone was baptized as an infant or anytime before he became a believer in Christ, it would then be appropriate to be baptized again as a believer with Christian baptism.

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