

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does those things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.

For without God's Word the water is plain water and no baptism. But with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter 3:

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

Galatians 3:26-27

You are all sons of God through faith
in Christ Jesus,

for all of you who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Romans 10:17 Faith comes through hearing
the message

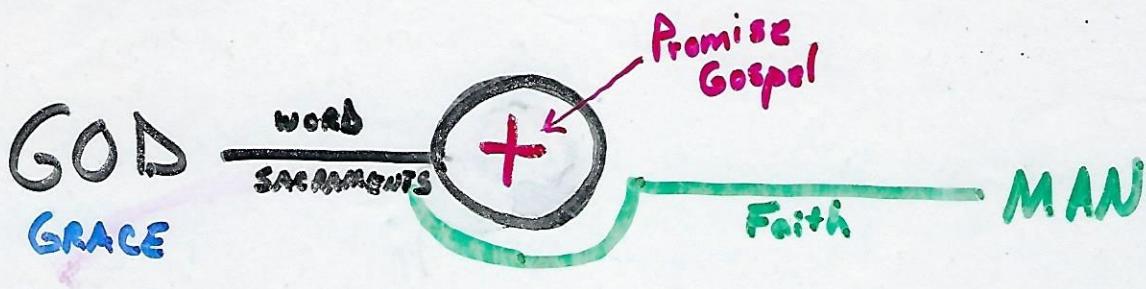
Heb 11:6 Without faith, it is impossible
to please God

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the Lord, and
He credited it to him as righteousness.

Rom 4:5 ... his faith is credited as righteousness

Faith = Belief = Trust

Act 10:43 everyone who believes in him



Grace alone - God's love for mankind so that he showers gifts upon us.

Rom 4:16 "it (righteousness) is of faith, that it might be given by grace."

a life-giving water, rich in grace.

Scripture alone - the means by which God gives us Divine promises (Gospel) is only through the Holy Scriptures (and the Scripture instituted Sacraments)

John 6:63 "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

Luke 16:31 "If they will not hear Moses and Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."

John 5:39 "You search the Scripture, for in them you think you have eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me."

Eph 5:26 "cleaning her by the washing of water through the word."

Faith alone - the means or instrument by which God's grace is received.

- the reliance (trust, confidence) of the heart on the promises of God

- Faith clings to the promise of God made in Word and Word-signs (sacraments)

Rom 3:22 "the righteousness of God, which is by faith in Jesus Christ unto all and upon all who believe."

Rom 3:26 "... the justifier of him that believes in Jesus"

Titus 3 This is a trust worthy saying.

Faith is NOT

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him
to them He gave power to become sons of
God, even to those who believe in His Name
who were born not of blood
nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man
but of God. *

Not a decision
Not an act of the will.

Eph 2:8-9 "By grace you have been saved
through faith — and this not from yourselves
it is the gift of God —
— not by works, so that no
one can boast."

A gift from God, not our work.

Baptism

- work of Mdn
- faith not needed (the baptism itself does it.)
- the church saves me by doing this to me.



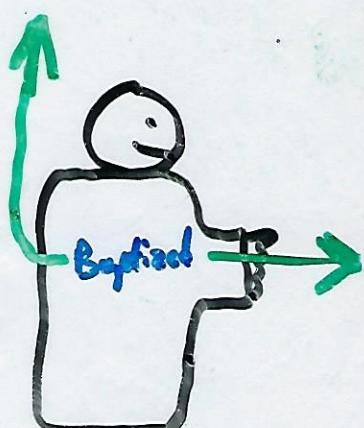
By buying this shirt I'm saving myself



God gave me this shirt, I know I'm saved.

Baptism

- Work of God (Gospel)
- Faith trusts in God's promise to save through this water
- It is a sure sign from God to me which I trust in.
- Therefore, it shows others I'm a Christian.



I bought this shirt, to show you...

Baptism

- man's work
- don't put your faith in it. Doesn't Save
- it's my obedience to God
- it's my work to show others I'm a Christian

The Passover

Exodus 12:13 "the blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Israel."

Heb 11:28 "By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel."

Circumcision

Genesis 17:11 You are to undergo Circumcision and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

Rom 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

Baptism

Eph 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance..."

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Co 1:22 He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Cor 5:5 (some)

Hope of eternal life

Not "I sure hope so" (unsure)

But "YES! That is my hope" (Confident)
("I'll get, but it's in the future")

Romans 8:24

For in this hope we were saved.

But hope that is seen is no hope at all.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written
in the past was written to teach us, so
that through the encouragement of the
Scriptures we might have hope.

Titus 3 ...we might become heirs
having the hope of eternal life...

... so that, having been justified.

justified = declared righteous

2 Cor 5:21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rom 3:20 No one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law...

- 2) a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify
- 4) ... are justified freely by his grace
- 26) ... and the One who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Sanctified = made holy (righteous)

Rom 8:9 You, however, are not controlled by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.