

The background of the image is a dark, deep blue underwater scene. It is filled with numerous bubbles of various sizes, some of which are brightly lit from above, creating a shimmering effect. Light rays or sunbeams are visible, filtering down from the top of the frame, adding a sense of depth and tranquility. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Baptism,
Grace & Faith

Of all the specifics that could be mentioned from the one faith, the apostle recognized baptism.

Ephesians 4:1–6 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, **one faith, one baptism**, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

*Let's consider Paul's
own experience
along with the saints
in Ephesus*

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Paul: His Will & Baptism

Guilty until baptized

Acts 22:10-16 "And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and **there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.**' And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to **know His will,** to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from His mouth; for you will be a witness for Him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? **Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.**'"

Ephesus: Belief & Baptism

*Not simply updated, but
baptized.*

Acts 19:1-5 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit **when you believed?**" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, **"Into what then were you baptized?"** They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."**

John the Baptist

Baptism for Forgiveness

Luke 1:76-79 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, **to give knowledge of salvation** to His people **in the forgiveness of their sins,** because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 3:3-6 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and **all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'** "

John the Baptist

Baptism & Rejecting God's Purpose

Luke 7:28-30 "I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, **and the tax collectors too,** they declared God just, **having been baptized with the baptism of John,** but the **Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God** for themselves, **not having been baptized by him.**)"

John the Baptist Baptism & Belief

Matthew 21:23-32 And when He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell Me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. **The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?**" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, **'Why then did you not believe him?'** But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, **the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him,** but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, **you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.**"

Faith, Grace & Baptism

Faith, Justification, Baptism & Promise

Galatians 3:23-29 "Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, **in order that we might be justified by faith.** But now that **faith has come,** we are no longer under a guardian, **for in Christ Jesus** you are all **sons of God, through faith.** **For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are **Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."**

Faith, Grace & Baptism

Circumcision, Baptism,

Faith & God's Working

Colossians 2:11-14 "In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross."

Faith, Grace & Baptism

Mercy, Washing,
Justification, Heirs

Titus 3:4-7 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, **not because of works done by us** in righteousness, **but according to His own mercy,** **by the washing of regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by His grace we might become heirs** according to the hope of eternal life."

What are you waiting for?

Romans 4:16-17 "That is why **it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring**—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one **who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father** of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the **God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead** and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

Galatians 3:27-29 "For as many of you as **were baptized into Christ** have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are **Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.**"