



## STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

### Article XIII – Baptism

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**Baptism is an ordinance instituted by God. Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20. Baptism is by water immersion only. Matthew 3:6; and in so doing, we identify with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; Romans 6:1-5; that is, by our conversion, we have died to sin, the old man is dead and buried, and we have been raised again to our new life in Christ. Colossians 2:12. The act of baptism must also include the baptism of the Holy Spirit empowering us to live the new life in Christ. Matthew 3:11.** This is a picture of our baptism with Christ in enduring trial, temptation, persecution, even death for His name's sake, and being resurrected to eternal life with Him. Re-baptism is available for anyone who has previously been baptized either outside of Adventism or who has fallen from truth in Adventism, who upon further conversion and comprehension of truth perceive the need to be rebaptized as a renewal of their covenant with God.

**We at HIS Vine Free Seventh-day Adventist Church firmly believe and recognize that baptism is not just water baptism, but is also about being baptized in the Holy Spirit.** Just as Paul demonstrated with the elders of the church of Ephesus in **Acts 19:1-7**, when he inquired of them as to whether or not they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. They said that they had not even heard of or knew anything about the Holy Spirit, that they had only been baptized with the baptism of John (baptism to repentance). Paul explained to them that yes, John baptized with water to repentance, preaching that those who were baptized should believe on Him who would come after him, Jesus Christ. These disciples immediately believed and were re-baptized. Paul then laid hands on them and they were filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit. **Many people initially are baptized by various means as a symbol to the world that they are saved. However, when they discover the full truth as presented by the Free Seventh-day Adventist Church, they perceive they have a need to be re-baptized after full repentance and conversion. This is appropriate as a renewal of their covenant relationship with God. So also, there are baptized Adventists who have departed from the faith, or slipped into sin, who, upon repentance, must also be re-baptized to renew**



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**their covenant relationship with God. We encourage this to take place as the individual sees their need to do so.**

Water baptism represents conversion; being baptized in the Spirit represents sanctification. A true believer must have both, daily, if he/she is to live a life that is surrendered to God and be a living sacrifice that is pleasing to Him. Jesus indicated this when He spoke to Nicodemus saying, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” **John 3:5**. When Jesus was baptized by John, He was first immersed in water, and upon rising, He was then baptized (anointed) by the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21, 22**. Jesus spent much time in prayer renewing Himself and acquiring fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. This was how He stayed free from sin and was able to endure the trials and persecutions that came His way. That is how it must be for us if we are to be the light to the world that our Heavenly Father desires to see us be. It’s not what we say, but how we live that will convince the world of their need for Jesus.

*“True sanctification is a Bible doctrine. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonian church, declares, “This is the will of God, even your sanctification.” And he prays, “The very God of peace sanctify you wholly.” [1Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23.] The Bible clearly teaches what sanctification is, and how it is to be attained. The Saviour prayed for his disciples, “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth.” [John 17:17, 19.] And Paul teaches that believers are to be “sanctified by the Holy Ghost.” [Romans 15:16.] What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Jesus told his disciples, “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” [John 16:13.] And the psalmist says, “Thy law is the truth.” By the Word and the Spirit of God are opened to men the great principles of righteousness embodied in his law. And since the law of God is “holy, and just, and good,” a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character. He says, “I have kept my Father's commandments.” “I do always those things that please him.” [John 15:10; 8:29.] The followers of Christ are to become like him,—by the grace of God, to form characters in harmony with the principles of his holy law. This is Bible sanctification. This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.*



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Paul admonishes believers, “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” [Philippians 2:12, 13.] E. G. White, *Great Controversy*, pg. 469 (1888)

**“The three great and glorious heavenly characters are present on the occasion of baptism. All the human capabilities are to be henceforth consecrated powers to do service for God in representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost upon whom they depend. All heaven is represented by these three in covenant relation with the new life.”** Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases, Volume 6*, pg. 9, 10 1904

“Jesus read *Isaiah 61:1-3* that day in the synagogue, and said, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears,” he at that time entered upon the last period of his work in the world. When that phase of his work ended, all was ended. And now that this is the time when God’s people enter upon the same work as that upon which Jesus then entered, it is likewise true that we now enter upon the last phase of the work given us to do. And when this shall be ended, all will be ended.

“Bear in mind, also, that these words which Jesus read that day in the syngagogue, and which he said were that day fulfilled, begin thus: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me;” and that only a few days before this he had been baptized with the Holy Ghost, in order to do that which thus lay before him in the last period of his work on the earth, and as that is precisely the work now placed before us, and upon which we are now to enter, it is thus absolutely certain that the time has come for us to be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

“As it was necessary for Jesus to be baptized with the Holy Ghost, in order to do this work that then lay before him, how much more is it necessary that we be baptized with the Holy Ghost, in order to do this identical work that is now placed before us.

“Do not forget that Jesus had been a perfect Christian all his days on earth up to the time when he must enter upon this work; yet he must be



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*baptized with the Holy Ghost before he could enter upon this work. The Holy Spirit had been with him every hour of his life on earth, up to that time; yet before he could do the work that then lay before him, his closing work, it was necessary that he should be baptized with the Holy Ghost.*

*“Therefore if you and I had been all our days as perfect Christians as was Jesus up to that time, yet it would be necessary for us to be baptized with the Holy Ghost, in order to do this same work, the closing work. And if the Holy Spirit had been with us as he was with Jesus the first thirty years of his life on earth, yet in order for us to do the work which is now placed before us, we would have to be baptized with the Holy Ghost.*

*“Have we been such perfect Christians all our days as was he all his days?—O, no. Then how much more do we need the baptism of the Holy Spirit than did he! Have we had the Holy Spirit in our lives as had he those thirty years of his life?—O, No. Then how much more do we need the baptism of the Holy Ghost than did he!*

*“Yet it was essential to the completion of the work of God in that day, that he should be baptized with the Holy Ghost. In that closing period of his work, there were trials, persecutions, temptations, and the cross to meet, which he could not meet successfully without this baptism of the Holy Spirit. So likewise it is essential to the completion of the work of God in this our day, that we be baptized with the Holy Ghost. In this closing period of our work, there are trials, persecutions, temptations, and crosses for us to meet, which we cannot meet successfully without this same baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

*“Not only do we need this, not only must we have it, but thank the Lord we can have it. God longs for us to receive it. The Father loves us just as he loves Jesus. And praise his holy name, when he places before us the same work that lay before Jesus, he gives us the same Holy Spirit in full measure, to fit us for that work, just as he gave it to Jesus.” **A. T. Jones, Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, October 12, 1897***

### ***Necessity of Re-Baptism***

*“I speak to our leading brethren, to our ministers, and especially to our physicians. Just as long as you allow pride to dwell in your hearts, so long*



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will you lack power in your work. For years a wrong spirit has been cherished, a spirit of pride, a desire for preeminence. In this Satan is served, and God is dishonored. The Lord calls for a decided reformation. **And when a soul is truly reconverted, let him be re-baptized. Let him renew his covenant with God, and God will renew His covenant with him.** My brethren, show true repentance for departure from God. Let angels and men see that there is forgiveness of sin with God. Extraordinary power from God must take hold of Seventh-day Adventist churches. Reconversion must take place among the members, that as God's witnesses they may testify to the authoritative power of the truth that sanctifies the soul. Renewed, purified, sanctified, the church must be, else the wrath of God will fall upon them with much greater power than upon those who have never professed to be saints." **Ellen G. White, Letter 63, April 19, 1903 "To Our Brethren at the Medical Missionary Council," pg. 1; Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, pg. 262**

"It is this baptism of the Holy Spirit that the churches need today. There are backslidden church members and backslidden ministers who need re-converting, who need the softening, subduing influence of the baptism of the Spirit, that they may rise in newness of life and make thorough work for eternity. I have seen the irreligion and the self-sufficiency cherished, and I have heard the words spoken, "Except ye repent and be converted, ye shall never see the kingdom of heaven." ("Shall all perish." **Luke 13:3, 5**) **There are many who will need re-baptizing, but let them never go down into the water until they are dead to sin, cured of selfishness and self-exaltation; until they can come up out of the water to live a new life unto God.** Faith and repentance are conditions essential to the forgiveness of sin." **Letter 60, 1906, pp. 4-6. (To S.N. Haskell, February 8, 1906.) Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, pg. 267**

"There is still another lesson for us in the experience of those Jewish converts. When they received baptism at the hand of John, they were holding serious errors. But with clearer light they gladly accepted Christ as





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their Redeemer; and with this advance step came a change in their obligations. As they received a purer faith, there was a corresponding change in their life and character. In token of this change, and as an acknowledgment of their faith in Christ, they were re-baptized, in the name of Jesus.

**Many a sincere follower of Christ has had a similar experience. A clearer understanding of God's will, places man in a new relation to him. New duties are revealed. Much which before appeared innocent, or even praiseworthy, is now seen to be sinful.** The apostle Paul states that though he had, as he supposed, rendered obedience to the law of God, yet when the commandment was urged upon his conscience by the Holy Spirit, "sin revived, and I died." **Romans 7:9.** He saw himself a sinner, and conscience concurred with the sentence of the law.

There are many at the present day who have unwittingly violated one of the precepts of God's law. When the understanding is enlightened, and the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the conscience, they see themselves sinners in the sight of God. "Sin is the transgression of the law," **1John 3:4,** and "he that shall offend in one point is guilty of all." **James 2:10.** **The honest seeker after truth will not plead ignorance of the law as an excuse for transgression. Light was within his reach. God's word is plain, and Christ has bidden him search the Scriptures. He reveres God's law as holy, just, and good, and he repents of his transgression. By faith he pleads the atoning blood of Christ, and grasps the promise of pardon. His former baptism does not satisfy him now. He has seen himself a sinner, condemned by the law of God. He has experienced anew a death to sin, and he desires again to be buried with Christ by baptism, that he may rise to walk in newness of life. Such a course is in harmony with the example of Paul in baptizing the Jewish converts."** **Ellen G. White, Sketches From the Life of Paul, pg. 133-134.**

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*See also, Bible Readings for the Home Circle, 1914 Edition, “Baptism.”*