The Inaugural Sign of Faith in Christ
Acts 10:44-48, 16:30-34, 19:1-5

From the time of Jesus, Christians committed to the _____ as the Word of God and to the _____ _____ are committed to baptism as the inaugural, outward sign of a person's coming to Christ. The Bible depicts baptism as the _____ of a person in water to demonstrate their faith in Jesus. Acts 10:44-48, 16:30-34, & 19:1-5 provide a consistent pattern from which we can discern the nature and significance of baptism.

First, the biblical word means "to _____ in water." There should be no question that Biblical baptism is full immersion. Sprinkling or pouring water was only used in emergencies until _____ years after Christ. In the Bible, people were immersed.

Second, baptism was reserved for those who had _____ and _____ chosen to become followers of Christ. The 1st record of a church leader speaking of baptizing babies was nearly ____ years after Jesus. Baptism in Scripture didn't _____ faith; it _____ faith in Jesus.

Each of the stories in Acts also shows other, individual aspects of the significance of baptism. In the case of the centurion, Cornelius, it was a privilege signifying _____ _____ into the church, the family of God—a kind of opening of the front door. In the case of the jailer, it offered a moment of catharsis—a chance to show, see, and feel that in Jesus, sins are _____ _____. In the case of the disciples of John the Baptist, it was a sign of an _____ _____.

Salvation takes place when a person says to God, "I'm trusting in Jesus for my salvation." It's an _____ thing. Baptism is an _____ sign. It serves as a kind of line in the sand to step over for all to see. That's what makes baptism so important and special. After you've told the Lord that you love and trust Jesus as your Savior, now you want _____ _____ to know and see for themselves it's true.