

# He of Whom John Spake

by G.W. North

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*Jesus' ministry built upon John's baptism, but the real baptism is a personal experience with Jesus, not water baptism.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:11, John 1:33, Acts 1:5, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, Hebrews 6:2

**Topics:** "Baptism", "Jesus' Ministry"

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## Description

G.W. North emphasizes the transition from John's baptism to the greater baptism that Jesus would fulfill through His death and resurrection. He explains that while John's ministry gradually ceased, Jesus retained and expanded upon it, ultimately leading to a deeper understanding of baptism that transcends water. North highlights that the true essence of Jesus' ministry was not fully revealed until His own baptism into death, which was foreshadowed in John's baptism. He clarifies that water baptism was a necessary practice during Jesus' earthly ministry but should not be confused with the greater baptism that Jesus administers through the Holy Spirit. This distinction is crucial for understanding the fullness of Jesus' mission and the nature of true baptism.

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## Transcript

From that time onward, John's baptising ministry was gradually phased out until it ceased altogether, while Jesus, having retained and incorporated it into His ministry, went on to fulfil it. Later He changed and enlarged it in many ways too numerous to mention now. But this He could not fully do until He underwent His own personal baptism into death, for although this was not in the least understood by those who were partakers of John's baptism, it is most certainly implied by it, being as it were just below the surface of the water.

It is therefore plainly to be seen that the vast and most important part of Jesus' ministry was not revealed while He was as yet standing on the earth, but awaited His own personally administered baptism into death and consequent resurrection.

During Jesus' earthly life, water baptism was the only one known and practised because the real baptism was not then known, nor could be. It is for this reason He handed over water baptism to His disciples. It was not only policy that He did so, it was necessary also if He did not wish to confuse people. John had said of Jesus, 'He who cometh after me is the Christ, the Son of God, He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and fire'.

Jesus therefore did not allow people any ground to imagine that water baptism, whether practised at that time by Himself or administered by His disciples in His name, was in some mysterious way to be construed or mystically substituted for the greater, real Baptism. Water baptism as such is not Jesus' baptism; (His Baptism cannot be administered by man, nor in that element, but by Himself alone) being administered by water, it can safely be left to men.

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