

# Acts 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

## Analysis

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**John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**—Paul carefully explains John's role as forerunner, whose baptism called for moral reformation (μετάνοια, metanoia—change of mind) while directing people toward **him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus**. The Greek construction emphasizes John's explicit instruction: believe (πιστεύσωσιν) on the Coming One. John's ministry was never an end in itself but an arrow pointing to Christ. This verse refutes both those who elevate John above his preparatory role and those who dismiss baptism's importance—John's baptism mattered precisely because it anticipated Christian baptism.

## Historical Context

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John the Baptist (AD 27-29) stood at the hinge of redemptive history, the last prophet of the old covenant and herald of the new. His execution by Herod Antipas (AD 31-32) occurred before many heard of Jesus' resurrection, leaving some followers in theological limbo.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you distinguish between preparatory religious practices and saving faith in Christ?
2. What does John's self-effacing ministry teach about Christian leadership and pointing others to Jesus?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν	δὲ	Παῦλος	Ἰωάννης	μὲν	ἐβάπτισεν	βάπτισμα
said	Then	Paul	John	verily	baptized	with the baptism
G2036	G1161	G3972	G2491	G3303	G907	G908
μετανοίας	τῷ	λαῷ	λέγων	εἰς	τὸν	
of repentance	G3588	unto the people	saying	is on	G3588	
G3341		G2992	G3004	G1519		
ἐρχόμενον	μετ'	αὐτὸν	ἵνα	πιστεύσωσιν	τοῦτ'	
him which should come	after	him	that	they should believe	G5124	
G2064	G3326	G846	G2443	G4100		
ἔστιν	εἰς	τὸν	Χριστὸν	Ἰησοῦν		
G2076	is on	G3588	Christ	Jesus		
G1519	G1519	G5547	G2424			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 1:5** (Baptism): For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

**Acts 11:16** (Baptism): Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

**John 1:7** (Faith): The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

**John 1:27** (Parallel theme): He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

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