
~ WATER BAPTISM INFORMATION ~

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM?

• Water Baptism is the physical act by which a person who believes in Jesus Christ is submerged or immersed in water and raised out of the water to symbolize Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Your entrance into the water during baptism identifies you with Christ's death on the cross and His burial and your coming out of the water identifies you with His resurrection. Baptism is therefore a visible act with a vital spiritual meaning.

"...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4)

"...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)

• It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. You bury the 'old life' and you rise to walk in a 'new life'. Baptism is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4, Study verses Romans 6:1-9)

• Baptism alone does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one if you already believed! Baptism alone does not 'save'; only your faith in Christ does that.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

• The Gospels tell us to baptize believers *"...in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19)*. Baptism confirms your position 'in Christ' and affirms the blessings of the Father on you as his child.

• Baptism also connects us to the 'body of Christ', his people in the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:13)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

• Every person who has made the decision to repent and believe in Christ. The requirement for baptism is repentance from works that lead to death (sin) and faith in Christ!

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." (Acts 8:12)

• We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

• *Because Christ commanded it.*

Water baptism is commanded of every believer, and it is very important for its own sake – because it demonstrates one's obedient heart – and for what it presents. Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15; James 2:17-18)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

• *Because it shows you are a believer.*

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public testimony and confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and it is an important foundation for the Christian life.

"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16)

• *Because it's following Christ's example.*

Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." (Mark 1:9)

WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

• As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay. Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized..." (Acts 2:41)

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-39)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE DAY OF BAPTISM

- Meet at the Church or venue at the agreed time on the day of Baptism (The date will be announced in advance)
- Wear comfortable clothes for baptism. Do not wear clothing that will be see-through when wet (wear something of a dark colour underneath your clothing for the baptism)
- Bring a complete change of clothes for after your baptism (Having some warm cloths handy, a jacket and the like is recommended)
- Please bring a large size towel with you
- Bring a plastic bag with you to carry your wet clothes home
- In the summer, the baptism may be conducted in a river with a rocky bed. If so, please bring shoes that you can enter into the water with.

BEFORE YOU STEP INTO THE WATER FOR BAPTISM

You will be asked the essential question: *"Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who died on the cross and on the third day rose from the dead for the forgiveness of your sins?"*

You should respond to the question as you have believed: *"Yes I do"*

Thereafter, you shall step into the water and be baptized with the following word: *"Because you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and have confessed Him as Lord before men, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"*

As you get baptized, remember that in this symbolic way you show your identification with Jesus Christ who bore your sins, took your place, died in your stead, was buried and rose again for your justification. As Christ went through the reality of suffering in death to secure your salvation, so by your immersion in water and coming out, you thus publicly declare your identification with your Lord in His death, burial, and resurrection on your behalf with the intention to walk with Him in NEWNESS OF LIFE.