

BAPTISM IN WATER

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1. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

Baptism is one of the most significant and solemn commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. He rated it important enough to submit Himself to it (*Matt 3:11-17*) and He practiced it throughout His ministry. He was baptized and He baptized. The Bible says that He made and baptized more disciples than John the Baptist. (*John 4:1*)

- i) Jesus was baptized (*Matt 3:11-17*)

'13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.'

- ii) Those following Jesus were baptized (*John 4:1,2*)

'Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.'

2. THE COMMAND OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus gave clear instruction that we should be baptized as followers of His. (*Matt. 28:18-20*)
Baptism is clearly instructed for believers again on the Day of Pentecost. (*Acts 2:38-41*)

- i) As followers of Jesus we should be baptized: the Great Commission instruction (*Matt. 28:18-20*)

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

- ii) The clear instruction on the Day of Pentecost: (*Acts 2:38-41*)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

3. THE PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

- i) Saul was baptized (*Acts 9:18*)
- ii) Cornelius was baptized (*Acts 10:44-48*)
- iii) Lydia was baptized (*Acts 16:14-15*)
- iv) The jailer was baptized (*Acts 16:30-34*)
- v) New believers in Corinth were baptized (*Acts 18:8*)
- vi) New believers in Ephesus were baptized (*Acts 19:4-6*)

4. **PRE-REQUISITES FOR WATER BAPTISM**

- i) Repentance: To change the mind (Acts 2:38-41)
- ii) Obedience: Baptism is a choice to obey the instruction of the Lord (Mark 16:16)
- iii) Faith: believe in Jesus first.

Two examples:

- Simon – saved and then baptised (Acts 8:12-13)
- The eunuch – accepted Christ and then baptized (Acts 8:26-40)

5. **THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM**

- Death
- Burial
- Resurrection
- New Life

(Refer to Colossians 2:11-14 and Romans 6:1-14)

“Into the water” speaks of death – As we go down into the water we are saying in effect that as Jesus died for our sins on the cross, so we have died to sin in our lives. There has been a complete break with the past – a death (*Rom 6:11*).

“Under the water” speaks of burial – Just as Jesus was buried in the tomb, so when we are lowered beneath the water our lives as sinners are regarded as being out of sight, i.e. dead (*Rom 6:4*). Our baptism then becomes a kind of a funeral, and the water a grave (*Col 2:12*). The Greek word “*baptizo*” means to dunk or immerse. Therefore we baptize by full immersion in much water.

“Out of the water” speaks of resurrection – *We were buried, therefore with Him by baptism, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.* (*Rom 6:4-5*)

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

New Life – This new life that we have is as a result of Jesus living in us. It opens up to us God’s vast resources. We are joint heirs with Christ. This is a radical shift. (*Rom 8:12-17*)

Col 3:1-17 explains what this transition looks like:

- Putting off the old, corrupt human nature
- Putting on the new
- Baptism demonstrates this work which Christ has done in our lives, but is not a mystical way of dealing with or drowning the fleshly nature. Our hearts get circumcised. (*Col.2:11-13*)

6. **THE DECISION THAT NEEDS TO BE MADE**

It is a great privilege to be baptized, and something to consider if you are not baptized yet.

- i) If you have never been baptized? Obey the Lord if you are born again!
- ii) If you were baptized as an infant? You need to be baptized as a believer!

- iii) If you have been baptized as an adult believer, but want to re-dedicate yourself to God?
We do not recommend this. Baptism is a once off declaration of your faith in Christ.
A re-dedication to God can be expressed in other ways.

7. PRACTICALITIES REGARDING THE EVENT

- Time and venue
- Clothing and towels
- Who will assist?
- Who will witness the event? Invite witnesses to be part of the event. (This is a public declaration of your faith.)
- What to expect from God. Expect to receive a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. (Ask for prayer in this regard.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." "Those who accepted his message were baptized." Acts 2:38,41

TESTIMONY: Carmen Arends

Sought her identity in the world, BUT found it in Christ.

Colossians 3:3 AMPC "For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God."

Your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

There's a version of yourself *hidden*...

Baptism: dying to the old life – rose in new life, new version of self in new life in Christ

Still had challenges afterwards... but Holy Spirit uplifted

"Every day I'm still turning away from myself and every day still committing to following Jesus and giving my thoughts, my understanding and my way to Him."