

WHY GET BAPTIZED



WHY BAPTISM?



Thank you so much for taking the time to read "Why Get Baptized." **We aim to provide an overview of what the Bible says about baptism.** You may have been raised in a church that follows the baptism traditions. **This document is based on God's Word, not our opinion.**

The Bible is very clear that baptism is a very important part of being in an obedient relationship with God. After giving control to Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, baptism is the first step of obedience.

Baptism does not save a person. It does not matter how often you have been baptized by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling. If you do not choose to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior and surrender your life to the Lord, baptism will not free you from the consequences of your sin, nor will you experience an intimate relationship with God, now and for eternity.

Recorded in the Gospel of Luke 23, Jesus replied to the thief on the cross next to Him, "today you will be with Me in paradise (Heaven)."

Note: Jesus did not say, "Sorry, you can't go to paradise (Heaven) because you have not been baptized."

SALVATION ALWAYS COMES BEFORE BAPTISM

"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 8:12 NIV

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The most important thing to do in this life is to settle the issue of your salvation. *Where will you spend eternity?*

Every person has a God-shaped hole in their life that only a personal relationship with Jesus can fill. Many go through life wondering if they will really go to heaven one day. One of the disciples closest to Jesus recorded that you can **know** if you will spend eternity with God.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

1 John 5:13 NIV

What percentage is your assurance of salvation?

(circle what best represents you)

50% 75% 90% 100%

STEPS TO SALVATION

Step 1

Realize God loves you and gave His Son to die for you on the cross.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3 :16 NIV

Step 2

Admit you have sinned and need Jesus' forgiveness.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

Step 3

Repent of your sins by asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins and make you a new creation.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord ."
Acts 3:19 NIV

Step 4

Believe by putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

**ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED or
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE?**

Below is an optional prayer, but talk aloud to God in your own words.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving me and washing away my sins
by sending Your Son to die on the cross for me.

I admit I am a sinner, please forgive my sins.

I turn from my old life. Make me a new creation in You.

I put my faith and trust in Jesus.

Just as I am, I surrender my life to Jesus as Lord of my life.

I receive salvation, a gift I cannot earn.

I will follow You, Jesus, for the rest of my life.

I proclaim that I believe Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose from the dead.

Thank you, Jesus, for reuniting me with God while I'm on Earth and for eternity!

I pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen!

This prayer is based on:

John 3:3; 16-17; Romans 3:23; 6:23, 5:6; 10:9-13; Acts 3:19; Ephesians 2:8-9

THE HISTORY OF BAPTISM



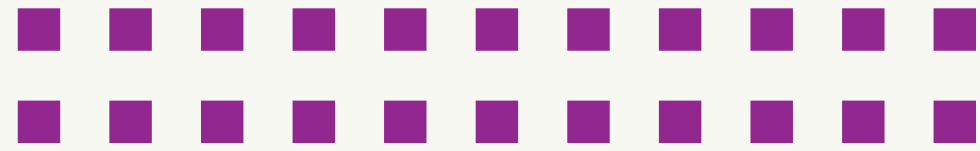
For over 2000 years, the word baptism has been used in the Holy Bible. In Scripture, most examples of baptism begin with John the Baptist. He comes on the scene at the beginning of the New Testament in Matthew 3:1-6 which records an eyewitness report of John the Baptist.

"John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River." Matthew 3:4-6 NIV

The Old Testament records that the Hebrews, long before the New Testament was written (see Leviticus 16:4; 23-24), practiced baptism as a traditional act of purification for those converting to Judaism. Although the acts described in these Old Testament scriptures were not called "baptism," they show the importance of ceremonial cleansing.

The New Testament method of baptism is undisputed. History tells us that this was the method of the early church. Archaeological discoveries have even found 1st-century churches with baptistries.

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM



"Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith."

Watchman Nee

(Chinese church leader and teacher in China during the 20th century)

According to the Bible, baptism is the **outward testimony** of what has **occurred inwardly** in a believer's life. Baptism **illustrates Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection**.

"Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."

Colossians 2:12 NIV

Baptism **illustrates** my **new life** as a Christian.

"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 NIV

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM



Baptism does not make you a believer; it symbolizes your beliefs. It's important to understand that baptism does not "save" you. You are "saved" only through your faith in Jesus Christ.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV (Bold added)

Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment made in our hearts. Baptism of immersion best illustrates a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. This is also a picture of what has happened in a new believer's life:

- * **Death to the old life:** going down into the water
- * **Burial of the old life:** down under or submerged
- * **Resurrection to the new life in Jesus:** coming up out of the water

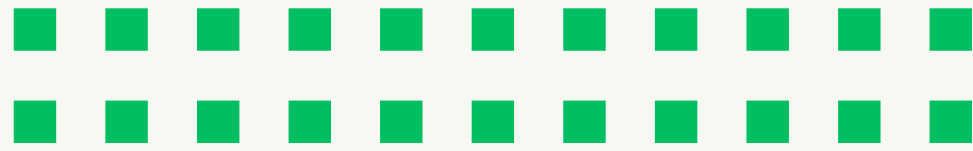
THE MEANING OF BAPTISM



“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His **death**? Therefore, we have been **buried** with Him through baptism into **death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life**.”

Romans 6:3-4 NIV (Emphasis added)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

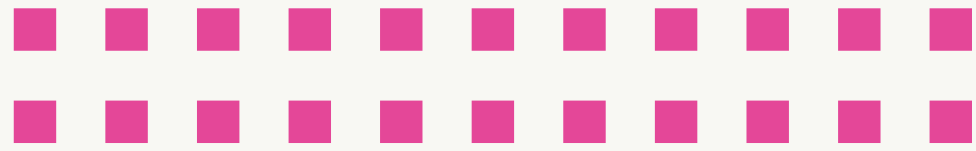


Every person who has trusted Christ as his or her Savior.

“But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” Acts 8:12 NIV

Being baptized as a baby is different than a **biblical believer's baptism**. Scripture does not record children or babies being baptized. Confusion about baptism is common among various Christian denominations. Churches practicing “infant baptism”, as it is more commonly known, follow their church's tradition, not the Bible. As seen in Acts 8:12, baptism by immersion occurs after you commit your life to Christ for salvation. Many parents have their children baptized as a sign of dedication to God or to remove “original sin”. However, following the biblical teaching of God's Holy Word is the best way to follow Jesus. Practicing “**baby dedication**” is a great way for parents to commit to raising their children to know and follow Christ. It allows them to surrender control of their lives to Christ and choose when to state their faith in Jesus publicly through baptism.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?



The Bible consistently records people being baptized **immediately** after professing their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Three thousand believers were baptized on the same day they believed when the church began at Pentecost.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number **that day**.”
Acts 2:41 NIV (Bold added)

Additional examples of new Christians baptized right after accepting salvation:

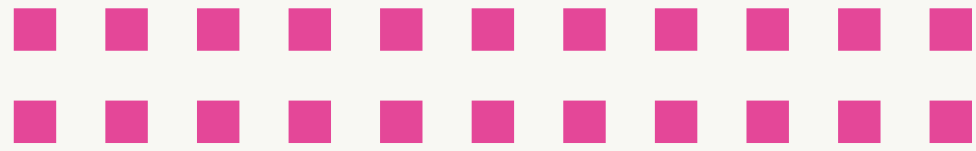
The Ethiopian (immediately) - Acts 8:29-38

Lydia and her family (immediately) - Acts 16:14-15

The Philippian Jailer and his family (immediately) - Acts 16:29-33

Apostle Paul (3 days after salvation) - Acts 9:17-18

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?



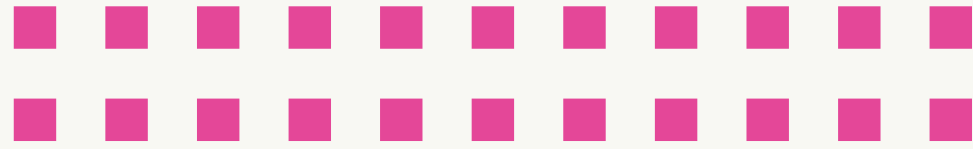
Simply put, we recommend baptism as soon as possible, because Jesus commanded it after he was resurrected from death and before he ascended to heaven. Some of the last words Jesus spoke on earth, recorded in the New Testament Gospel of Matthew:

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and 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 NIV

These verses record Jesus' command that we make disciples, baptize, and teach everyone to follow His commands - in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

COULD I GET MY BAPTISM OUT OF ORDER?



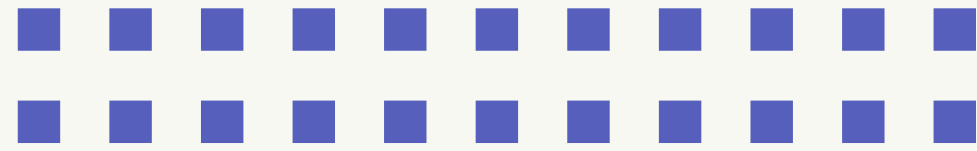
YES, but what does that mean?

Getting baptized before you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

If you were baptized as a child or adult, and later realized you needed to be saved (or 'born again'), then surrendered your life to the Lordship of Jesus. So, you were baptized before salvation, which is having your baptism out of order.

We strongly encourage you to get baptized again to publicly announce that you have chosen to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

WHY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION?



The simplest answer to this question is found by returning to the original language of the New Testament, Greek. The word “baptize” is translated from the Greek word **baptizo**, which is defined in the Greek lexicon as “immersion; to submerge in water.”

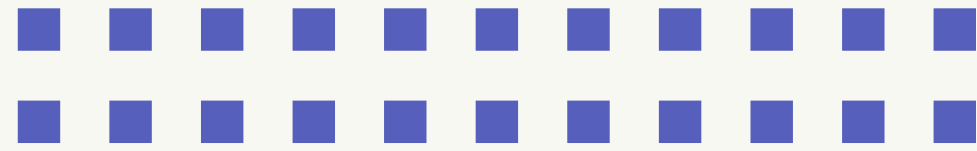
The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible defines **baptizo** as “to dip, immerse, plunge, submerge, overwhelm, or engulf.” The baptism immersion signifies “the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, unlike the sprinkling and pouring of water in other traditions.

As followers of Jesus, our goal is to follow the example of Jesus recorded in the Word of God (Bible). In 1 John 2:6, we are instructed to live like Jesus. All four of the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, record Jesus setting the example for us when he was baptized by immersion.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized (baptizo**), he went out of the water...”**

Matthew 3:16 NIV

WHY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION?



The history of immersion goes back to the writing of Cyril Bishop of Jerusalem 348 AD, Hippolytus a 3rd Century theologian, and even the Roman Catholic Church in the 13th Century. A baptismal pool was found dating back to 375 AD in Turkey. King James gave orders for scholars to translate the Hebrew and Greek Bible into the King's English in 1611, referring to baptism by immersion.

Going public with your faith and getting baptized will change your life by obeying Jesus and becoming bold in your faith and a witness of what Jesus has done in you.

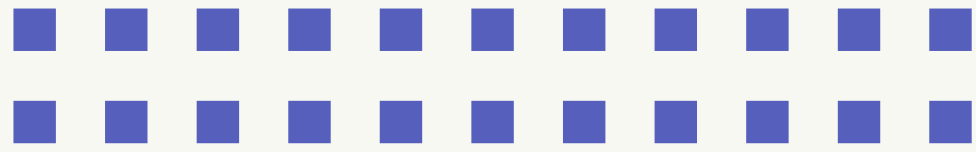
Baptism by immersion is the act that fully illustrates a radical change in your life.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old is gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV (emphasis added)

WHY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION?



Immersion quotes from three important theologians in the history of the church:

**“I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed,
as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”**

Martin Luther (German professor of theology, composer, priest, monk, and reformer 1483-1546)

**“The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion
was the practice of the ancient church.”**

John Calvin (French theologian, pastor, and reformer in Geneva. 1509-1564)

**“Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according
to the custom of the first church.”**

John Wesley (English cleric and theologian. 1703-1791)



GOING PUBLIC

Going public with your baptism is very important. According to Matthew 10:22, when we go public and confess that we are a follower of Jesus then Jesus confesses us to the Heavenly Father.

(Jesus said) "Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before man, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven".

Matthew 10:32 NASB

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile". Romans 1:16 NIV



