

Baptism Study & FAQ's

I. Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

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

B. Because Jesus commanded it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:19-20)

C. It demonstrates that I really am a Believer.

"We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)

II. What is the Meaning of Baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"Christ died for our sins. . .He was buried. . .and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Colossians 2:12)

B. It illustrates my new life as a Christian

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

C. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian.

Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward sign of the commitment

you have made in your heart (see Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

A. Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." (Matthew 3:16)

B. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(for example) "...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water. . ." (Acts 8:38-39)

C. The word "baptize" means "to dip under the water" in Greek.

D. It best symbolized a burial and resurrection (see Romans 6:1-11)

IV. Who Should be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ should be baptized. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized (Acts 2:41, 8:12-13).

Study of Baptism as practiced by the early church in the book of Acts

Observe the pattern of salvation & baptism in the book of Acts:

These people... 1-heard 2-believed 3- confessed 4-and were immediately baptized.

- (1) *Acts 2:41* 3000 baptized in one day after confession of faith
- (2) *Acts 8:6-13* Samaritans, former demon-possessed/sorcerers/sick
- (3) *Acts 8:36-38* Ethiopian eunuch as traveling on road
- (4) *Acts 9:18-19* Saul
- (5) *Acts 10:47-48* Gentiles, Peter commanded Jews not to wait
- (6) *Acts 16:13-15* Women by riverside
- (7) *Acts 16:33* Roman jailer and family
- (8) *Acts 18:8* Ruler of synagogue, family and many believers
- (9) *Acts 19:1-5* John's baptism not enough
- (10) *Acts 22:14-17* Why are you waiting? (Ananias speaking to Saul)

Five Questions to Ask with Biblical Answers

(1) Why baptize?

--It is a clear command of Jesus *Matthew 28:19-20*

--It is symbolic of dying to sin & being born again to righteousness *Romans 6:1-6*

(2) When? --Immediately *Acts 8:36-38*

(3) Where? --Anywhere there is enough water *Mark 1:9-11*

(4) Who? A Disciple (one who believes in and follows Christ)

--John 4:1-2, *Matthew 28:19-20*, *I Corinthians 1:10-17*, *Acts 10:47-48*

(5) How? Immersion *Mark 1:9-11*