

BAPTISM



Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38 (NLT)**

So, you're thinking about getting baptised! But you have a few questions. This guide aims to help you understand what baptism is, why you should get baptised, when you should get baptised and how you should get baptised. Then we look at baptism through the scriptures to understand more.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is an outward confession of an inner conviction which demonstrates how we are made new creations when we accept Jesus as Lord. When we commit our lives to Jesus there is a transformation that takes place. It might not be seen immediately, but you really are a new creation! When you get baptised, as you go beneath the water, it pictures your old life being gone, and when you are raised out of the water it pictures your new life emerging.

It also serves as a witness of a willing decision of obedience that the new believer makes in and is a witness to other believers of the obedience of the new believer

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; **a new life has begun!**

WHY SHOULD I GET BAPTISED?

1. It is an act of obedience - It is something that Jesus said we should do, and that's why we do it! We are showing God and others, right from the beginning that we are going to do our best to obey what Jesus says. *Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, 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"*
2. To identify with Christ - *Romans 6:4 (NLT) For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*
3. To display your new life in Christ - When you are baptised you are making a public declaration that you have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord. Baptism allows you to demonstrate that you have laid down your old life and that you are emerging to a new life in Christ.

WHEN SHOULD I GET BAPTISED?

When we study the Scriptures and the practise of the early church, we find a clear pattern which developed. This pattern was:

Teach > Believe > Baptise

Acts 2:41 (NLT)

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized...

If you have heard the message of Jesus and you believe that he died for your sins, and that God raised him from the dead then you should get baptised!

HOW DO I GET BAPTISED?

We believe that your baptism should be by full immersion [going under] in water. The root of the word 'baptism' is baptiso - to immerse, dip, submerge, saturate or plunge. The significance of baptism is found in the submersion and immersion and therefore a full submersion is required.

Acts 8:38-39 (NLT)

"...they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..."

DOES BAPTISM HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE?

You are not saved by baptism. Scripture makes it abundantly clear that you are saved by grace through faith, meaning that faith in Jesus Christ is what saves!

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Remember the pattern for baptism? *Believe* first and *then* be baptised. There is no power in the water or the ceremony to restore us to relationship with God. So being baptised now or earlier in your life does not have the power to save.

What baptism does do however is announce and display the faith that we **already have!**

BAPTISM THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

BAPTISM IS A BIBLICAL PRACTISE AND IS VITAL

Acts 2:38 (NLT)

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:36 (NIV)

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptised?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptised him.

BAPTISM IS AN **OUTWARD SIGN** OF AN **INNER CONVICTION** IDENTIFYING WITH THE BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

Romans 6:4 (NLT)

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Colossians 2:12-14 (NLT)

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptised. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

BAPTISM IS THE RIGHT STEP AFTER BELIEVING

Acts 2:41 (NLT)

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

Acts 8:12 (NLT)

But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.

Acts 16:14b-15 (NLT)

As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

Acts 16:32 - 33 (NLT)

And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

BAPTISM IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

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.

Luke 6: 46 (NIV)

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

BAPTISM IS BY IMMERSION IN WATER

Acts 8:38-39 (NLT)

He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TO SEE IF YOU UNDERSTAND:

1. Baptism is an _____ confession of an _____ conviction that demonstrates how we were made _____ creations when we accept Jesus as Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2. Baptism is an act of _____ - It is something that Jesus said we should do, and that's why we do it!

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, 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

3. Baptism is by _____ in water

Acts 8:38-39 (NLT)

He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down _____ the water, and Philip baptized him.

4. Baptism comes after _____ in Jesus.

Teach > _____ > Baptize

Acts 2:41 (NLT)

Those who _____ what Peter said were baptized...