

Baptism

Read Acts 1:8

- What is a witness?
- According to the verse, whose witness will you be?
- What do you think it means to give witness to Jesus with your thoughts, words, actions, time, relationships, and money?

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a public step of obedience in identifying with Jesus Christ. Now that you are a follower of Jesus, your whole life is about being a witness. This isn't the end of the story for you; this is the launching pad. Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality. It is a public declaration of a personal faith. You have an incredible opportunity through baptism to say, "I'm with Jesus. He's changed me."

Baptism is not:

- A family tradition carried on by the next generation
- A religious obligation that must be completed to be saved
- Something to check off a spiritual formation list

Read Acts 2:41; 8:12-13

- Who was baptized?
- What happened in each of these verses before the person/people got baptized?

Read Mark 16:15-16

- According to verse 16, who is saved?
- Who is condemned?
- Can baptism save you?

Belief in Jesus Christ is what saves a person, not baptism. Baptism is a result of your salvation, not a requirement for salvation. Authentic faith will work itself out in visible ways - one of which, is baptism. Baptism does not save you, it shows that you already are saved.



Why Get Baptized?

1. Jesus is our example: **Read Mark 1:9**
2. A mark of a disciple is to be baptized: **Read Matthew 28:19-20**
3. Baptism helps to strengthen your new faith: **Read James 2:22**
4. It is a public step of obedience in following Jesus: **Read Galatians 3:27**
5. It helps to connect you to the Body of Christ: **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

Why do we baptize with immersion and not the sprinkling or pouring of water?

Immersion is the perfect picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism symbolizes the transition from our old life into our new life. The word baptize means: to plunge or submerge. We don't just put water on our hands, feet, and head; we go all in for Jesus. **Read Romans 6:3-4**

How do we know when we are ready to be baptized?

A person should be baptized when:

- They have put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- They are ready to align their lives with the commands of God
- They have understood and agree with the importance of baptism
- They are ready to publically profess their faith as witnesses to Christ

Here's the big question: **Are you willing to publically identify with Jesus?** When we love someone, we want to tell the whole world. Are you ready to tell the world of your love for Jesus through baptism?

