



BAPTISM

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Gal 3:27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Rom 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD FAITH

"First comes love... then comes marriage..." We've all heard that little rhyme that schoolyard children chant. But, there is some truth behind it. When two people fall in love and decide to take the next step, they get engaged and begin to plan the wedding. We all know someone who has gotten married—friends, family, or perhaps ourselves.

According to current statistics, approximately 2.3 million couples wed every year in the United States! A wedding serves as a public expression of two people's COMMITMENT to one another. It is an outward expression of their love for each other.

Similarly, baptism is an OUTWARD EXPRESSION of your faith as a believer. It is that next step in your journey. You have already made the commitment to follow Christ and enter into a lifelong covenant with Him... now it's time to tell the world!



WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is an OUTWARD EXPRESSION—a step of obedience—taken after someone has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Baptism itself does not “save” a person. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ for salvation from sin and spiritual death ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). Baptism comes after an expressed belief in Christ as the Son of God. Therefore, we are baptized in response to what Christ has done for us. It is an outward expression of our faith to those around us, that there has been an internal, spiritual work done by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The word baptism comes from the Greek word, *baptizo*, which means “to immerse.” The death of our old (sinful) nature and the birth of our new nature in Christ are symbolized by our immersion under water and our being raised up ([Rom. 6:3-4](#); [Col. 2:12](#)). It SYMBOLIZES the washing away of our sins and is an ILLUSTRATION of an inner conversion that has already taken place within the heart of a believer.

WHAT DOES BAPTISM SIGNIFY?

The Bible shows us five aspects of what baptism illustrates:

- Baptism signifies our UNION with God through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. ([Rom. 6: 3-4](#))
- Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus' instructions for each disciple to be baptized. ([Matt. 28: 18-19](#))
- Baptism is a public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ. ([Rom. 10: 9-10](#))
- Baptism identifies us with our spiritual family—the body of Christ. ([1 Cor. 12: 13](#))
- Baptism symbolizes Jesus' cleansing us from sin. ([Acts 22:16](#))



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Let's look to the Bible to consider people who have been baptized....

In [Acts 2:41](#) (NIV) the Bible tells us how 3,000 people became believers on the Day of Pentecost and all went through baptism on the same day. [Acts 8:26-40](#) (NIV), tells us about the Ethiopian eunuch who was given the Gospel by Philip. Once the Ethiopian believed, he asked Philip to baptize him right away. [Acts 10:47-48](#), tells us how Peter instructed a group of new converts, that he won over to Christ, to be baptized right away.

What's an important pattern here?
They **FIRST** became **believers** and then **submitted** to baptism as an **OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF THEIR FAITH**. Baptism itself does **NOT** bring salvation, but rather salvation **INSPIRES** the baptism.


You have already taken the first step in your journey by acknowledging your sin and accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, now it's time to consider publically identifying yourself with Christ!


TAKE THE NEXT STEP.


BAPTISM IS A JOYOUS OCCASION
FOR A BELIEVER.
IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE TO
THE WORLD THAT YOU HAVE BEEN
REDEEMED AND SET FREE
BY THE BLOOD OF THE
LAMB—OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

 [Baptism
Restoration Videos](#)

 [The Meaning of
Baptism](#)
George Banister

 [Why Water Baptism?](#)
James Boyd

 [What is the
Significance of
Baptism?](#)
Hank Hanegraaff

