

# Water Baptism

Our relationship with the Lord is not a sprint; it is a life long journey of faith and obedience. As we continue to follow Jesus as a disciple, He challenges us to come to a new and greater level of faith by the challenges we overcome and the commandments we are called to obey. Water Baptism is the next step on this journey of faith with God. It is a funeral for our old man and nature, and a birth of the new man, walking in the newness of life.

## I. New Testament Passages Regarding Water Baptism

- A.** "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:37-38
- B.** "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." Romans 6:3-10
- C.** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." Matthew 28:18-20
- D.** "Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." Colossians 2:12
- E.** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27

## II. Defining Water Baptism

**A.** According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible's Greek dictionary, the Greek word for baptism is "baptizo" and means:

1. To dip repeatedly, to immerse to submerge (of vessels sunk)
2. To cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe
3. To overwhelm

## III. Who Should Be Water Baptized?

**A. Anyone who has confessed and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.**

"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Phillip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So He commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him."

Acts 8:36-38

**B. Anyone who has also repented and turned away from their sins.**

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

**C. Anyone who is old enough to understand the significance of water baptism.**

1. Every person who receives Christ should be baptized in the correct, biblical manner after conversion. If someone was baptized before they understood what it meant or before they were truly "saved", they should still respond in obedience to the command to "repent and be baptized."

## IV. Why Should I Be Water Baptized?

**A. Jesus Commanded it**

Water baptism is a sacred ordinance commanded by Jesus Christ in which we are identified with our Lord in His death, burial, and resurrection.

"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

**B. It's an Act of obedience**

**C. A Spiritual Work Takes Place in Us**

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection..." Romans 6:3-5

**V. What Happens When I'm Water Baptized?**

**A. Death and Burial of Sin:**

Water Baptism is a funeral for your old self and life and a celebration of your new life in Christ. When we are baptized, the old sinful nature is cut away from our hearts and the enmity between our old nature and the new nature we receive from Christ is settled. Love begins to grow in our hearts for the things of God, and we are free to be led by the Spirit. Romans 6:3-10

**B. Circumcision of the Heart**

The operation is called "the circumcision of the heart" and only occurs in us as we believe, in faith, for God to perform this in us. The Holy Spirit performs a spiritual operation on the heart to cut away our old, corrupt nature with its passions and lusts.

"...True circumcision is something that happens deep in your heart, not something done to your body." Romans 2: 29 CEV

"In union with Christ you were circumcised, not with the circumcision that is made by human beings, but with the circumcision made by Christ, which consists of being freed from the power of this sinful self." Colossians 2: 11 GNB

"...you were circumcised when] you were buried with him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with [Him to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed when He] raised [Jesus] up from the dead." Colossians 2: 12

**C. Identification with Christ**

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."  
Galatians 3:27

**D. Public Profession of Your Faith**

Historically, water baptism is the event when new believers have publicly made their profession of faith; and by being baptized, they enter into relationship with Christ and His church.

## **VI. The Biblical Method Of Baptism**

In order to determine the “right” way to baptize, we must go to the Bible for the correct answer. This is what the Bible has to say about baptism.

### **A. Biblical Examples of Water Baptism**

1. Phillip baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39
  - a. Phillip preached Jesus as Lord and Savior. Acts 8:35
  - b. The eunuch believes and desires to be baptized and asks what the requirements are. Acts 8:36
  - c. Phillip states that you must believe (faith toward God) in order to be baptized. Acts 8:37
  - d. The eunuch sees a large body of water suitable for baptism (deep enough to be immersed). Acts 8:37
  - e. Note: If baptism were merely an issue of sprinkling, they could have done that right in the chariot with drinking water, or have collected enough water, but both went down into the water.
  - f. The Ethiopian proclaims His faith in Jesus as the Christ. Acts 8:37
  - g. They both went down “into” the water, the eunuch was baptized. Acts 8:38

2. The Day of Pentecost in Acts 2

Acts 2 tells us what happened on the Day of Pentecost when the church was born through the preaching of Peter and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” then Peter said to them, “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:37-38

## **BAPTISM SCRIPTURES**

### **Colossians 2:11-15 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>11</sup> When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>12</sup> For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> In this way, he disarmed<sup>[b]</sup> the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

## **Colossians 2:11-15 (The Message)**

<sup>11-15</sup> Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already in—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

## **Romans 6:3-5 (The Message)**

When Death Becomes Life

<sup>1-3</sup> So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

<sup>3-5</sup> That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

## **Romans 6:3-5 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>3</sup> Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.