

BAPTISM FAQ

Who Should Be Baptized?

Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12-13

Anyone who believes that his sin once separated him from God and has concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only thing that can bridge the gap between him and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his or her salvation.

Why should I be baptized?

Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:18-20

We are baptized as an act of obedience. Jesus commands his followers to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself was baptized and we want to follow his example to show others that we love him.

Why did Jesus command us to be baptized?

Getting baptized is part of Christian life. In the early church, new believers would be baptized as a symbol of being united with Christ and his church. Baptism is an external declaration of the internal reality that we are now part of the body of Christ. Just as a nametag let's everyone know your name, baptism identifies you as a Christian. It's a public way to show people that you follow and obey Jesus.

Baptism in the Early Church

Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41

In New Testament times, baptism followed repentance and faith. Peter invited his listeners on the day of Pentecost to "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins". Three thousand people responded to the invitation, and "those who accepted his message were baptized".

When the apostles took the gospel across the Roman Empire from Jerusalem, new churches were planted, and believers were baptized soon after they turned away from sin and put their trust in Christ for salvation. Acts 18:18 says, "Many of the Corinthians who heard [Paul] believed and were baptized."



Why do we baptize by immersion?

Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38–39

The word “baptize” means to immerse, douse, or saturate. In the two full descriptions of baptism found in the New Testament, individuals were immersed in water. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John to identify Himself as God’s Son: “As soon as he was baptized, [he] went up out of the water”.

The apostle Philip baptized the Ethiopian by going down into a body of water and coming up with him. In both of these examples, a large enough quantity of water was required to immerse the person.

We celebrate baptism through immersion, the same way the early church did. It is a great representation of a former way of life put to death and upon coming out of the water, release from the mastery of sin. Baptism by immersion best symbolizes a burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-11).

What happens after Baptism?

Baptism is a step in your walk with Jesus. After a declaration of faith, we continue to serve and worship God in every aspect of life, reaching out to our community, worshiping and spending time with God.

