

How to prepare for Water Baptism

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus Christ our Lord (Mark 1:9)
2. To obey the command of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19, 20)
3. It is a demonstration that I am really a believer (Acts 18:8; 1 John 2:3)
The book of James says that faith without works is dead. James 2:14-26

What is the meaning of baptism?

1. It illustrates Jesus' death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Colossians 2:12)
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Baptism does not make you a believer — it shows that you have already believe in Christ as your personal savior. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

We need to understand that it is God that convicts us of our need of salvation and it is He who gives us new life. See the following example of people who believed in Christ and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit BEFORE being baptized in water.

Acts 10: ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues^[a] and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Why be baptized by immersion?

1. To follow the Jesus' example. Jesus was baptized that way (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (Acts 8:38 to 39)
3. The word “baptize” means to dip under water. The Greek word baptizo means “to immerse or dip under water”
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection. The founders of denominations agree: Martin Luther “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies”.

John Calvin “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Jesus Christ

“Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

Romans 10:⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a commitment between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make their own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe; the purpose being to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you believe in Jesus

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Jesus Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. Do not wait until you “feel” ready; simply obey what the Lord has commanded you to do.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Discretion and modesty is important when being baptized. The current practice is to provide you with a white baptism robe for the baptism ceremony. A practical option for clothing underneath this is a tee-shirt and shorts over a bathing suit. You will need a change of clothes and a large bath/beechn towel to dry off afterwards.

What will I have to do during the baptism?

Baptism is a significant event in your Christian life. It is a good opportunity to introduce your family and friends to Christ. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

When the Baptism service begins and before you are baptized, the Pastor will explain the meaning of Baptism. You will be asked to share the testimony of why you are being baptized and how you came to know Jesus as your personal savior. Once everyone has shared their testimony, you will be instructed when to go in to the baptism tank.