



PREPARING FOR THE NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE (Why Baptism?)

Introduction: Hello friend. My name is Pastor Bacon. Congratulations on your decision to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this video is threefold. First, we wish to cover important information about the new birth experience, which we share with all candidates who wish to be baptized. Second, presenting the information to you via video before the day of your baptism, minimizes the time required to complete the baptism process once you arrive at our church. Third, it gives us an opportunity to cover Covid-19 precautionary measures we have implemented and will follow during your baptism.

Why is baptism essential to salvation?

- **Answer: There are several reasons why baptism is essential.**

1. **Baptism is evidence of one's faith.** The apostle Paul wrote, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9) **James 2:14, 17, & 18--(14)** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. **Note:** Grace is the unmerited favor of God toward man in granting us the gift of salvation. The only way to receive salvation is to have faith in Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His Sacrifice on the Cross. Simply stated, faith is belief in action. If we believe Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for our salvation, we must respond to His call to salvation. James said, "...faith without works is dead" (**James 2:14-18**). Our faith in Christ is made clear by our works (being baptized). Thus, we are saved by God's grace and through our faith.

2. **Baptism ensures remission of all sin:** Peter said, "...Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins...". (Acts 2:38). Without baptism our past sins will not be cleansed or put away. There is no magic in the baptism formula, God simply honors the believer's faith, which he/she demonstrates by their obedience to baptism (Mark 16:16), and forgives them of all past sins.

3. **Baptism fulfills Jesus' requirement for a "birth of the water".** **John 3:5—**"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Note: Jesus declared that everyone (Jew and Greek) must experience a birth of water and spirit. Water baptism is part of the new birth process. Baptism is the birth of water. It is for everyone, and it is for us today. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). John the

Baptist, the forerunner to Jesus, baptized people with “water” unto repentance (Matt. 3:11). In the book of Acts, “water” baptism was mandated by the apostles in every instance where they preached the new birth doctrine.

4. Why must the baptism be performed in the name of Jesus Christ? When we invoke a name, we reference the authority the name has. The name Jesus means “Savior.” Jesus came to save us from our sins (Matt. 1:21). When we invoke Jesus name over the baptism, we appeal to the power and authority God has placed in the name. Jesus is the only name with the authority to save (Acts 4:12). All New Testament baptisms were performed in the Name of Jesus. Even Matthew 28:18-19, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,” references “Jesus”. Reference John 10:30, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, Col. 3:17. Every baptism performed by Jesus’ apostles was performed in the name of Jesus. ***Note:** It is proper to use in the name of Jesus Christ or the Lord Jesus Christ to distinguish between other people named Jesus.

Why is obeying Acts 2:38 essential to salvation? Obeying Acts 2:38 fulfills Jesus requirement of the New Birth. **John 3:5**—“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” Jesus said to enter the kingdom “everyone” must be born of water and Spirit. Reading Acts 2:38, water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is a birth of water, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is the birth of the Spirit. **Note:** Many teach that salvation is complete when one obeys Romans 10:9— “... *if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*” While Paul’s admonishment requires faith, it was written to saints (Christians) who had already experienced the new birth Jesus commanded in John 3:1-8. Second, Romans 10:9 does not contain instructions for a birth of water and Spirit, and therefore does not fulfill Jesus’ requirement for the new birth. Third, Paul himself experienced the birth of water and Spirit (Acts 9:16-19, Gal.1:6-20, 1 Cor. 14:18), and taught the same to others (Acts 19:1-7).

The Significance of Repentance: In Acts 2, Peter commanded the people to “repent and be baptized” for the remission of sins. Peter called for repentance before baptism. Therefore, it is essential that we repent prior to being baptized. Repentance prepares the heart for the birth of the Spirit—the infilling of the Holy Ghost—as no sins are remitted without a repentant heart.

What is Repentance? Genuine repentance is confession and forsaking of sin (Prov. 28:13). The apostle John wrote, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Forgiveness is not granted without confession (acknowledgement) to God that we have sinned. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Repentance involves godly remorse for sin. The apostle Paul said the saints were made sorry to repentance. “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death (2 Cor. 7:9-10). To repent, we acknowledge any known past sin, and experience sincere remorse for committing those sins. We declare to God our intent to abandon our sin and follow Jesus Christ. Remember: If we do not intend to follow Christ after baptism, the baptism should be postponed until our faith in Christ is sufficient to follow Him.

Should we continue in sin after we are baptized? If we have faith in Christ and intend to follow Him, we do not return to our old life after baptism. The apostle Paul

explained the importance of not returning to sin this way: “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:1-4). Baptism signals death to the former life. We “are dead to sin.” If we are dead to sin, sin does not reign in our lives or control us any longer. Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Salvation, in the theological context, means being delivered or freed from sin. Once freed from sin, we are commanded by the Bible to remain free. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1).

In Summary, salvation is granted through our faith in Jesus Christ alone and His sufficiency (Eph. 2:8-9). Through faith, we obey Acts 2:38 because it is the New Birth doctrine presented by Jesus in John chapter 3. Water baptism is an essential part of the new birth experience. It is required for everyone, and is for everyone today. The mode of baptism is complete immersion (dip, dunk, or submerge), as it was illustrated in the Bible (John 3:23, Acts 8:36-37, Mark 1:10), and correlates with Paul’s declaration that “we are buried” by baptism (Rom. 6:1-4). The name of Jesus Christ is invoked over the baptism as “Jesus” alone has the authority to forgive sins, heal, and save (Matthew 28:18, John 14:13-14, and Acts 4:12, Col. 3:17), and all baptisms in the Bible are in reference to Jesus (Matthew 28:19, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, 10:47-48, 19:5). Prior to baptism, it is essential that all known sin be repented of with “godly sorrow,” so that remission of sins is granted (Acts 2:38). Once baptized, the life of sin is completely abandoned and the believer follows Christ wholly (Rom. 6:1-4).

Covid-19 Precautionary Measures: Your health and safety are especially important to us. To reduce the potential spread of Covid-19, we ask that you limit the number of guests you invite to your baptism to 3 guests maximum. God’s Way Community Church staff will wear protective masks, practice social distancing, frequent hand washing and disinfecting, as necessary, and the individual administering the baptism will also wear gloves. All baptismal candidates and guests are asked to wear a mask and will have their temperatures taken prior to the baptism. Baptismal robes and towels are available and are thoroughly washed and sanitized.

Again, congratulations on your decision to be baptized in the matchless name of Jesus Christ! We rejoice with you and will be praying for your continued growth in the Lord. If you have any questions after reviewing this information, please don’t hesitate to contact me at (559) 333-3018.