

Water Baptism: What You Need to Know

What Is Water Baptism?

Water baptism is a public declaration that you have repented of your sins, placed your faith in Jesus Christ, and chosen to follow Him. Baptism does not save you, but it is an act of obedience that Jesus commanded for every believer.

Jesus said:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 ESV)

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation. It demonstrates to the world that your old life has been left behind and that you have been raised to walk in newness of life with Christ.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. Jesus Commanded It

Baptism is not merely a church tradition. It is a command from Jesus Himself.

If we love Him, we obey Him.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15 ESV)

2. Jesus Was Baptized

Although Jesus was without sin, He chose to be baptized as an example for us to follow.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him." (Matthew 3:13 ESV)

If Jesus was baptized, we should desire to follow His example.

3. Baptism Identifies Us with Christ

When you are lowered into the water, it symbolizes the death and burial of your old life. When you are raised out of the water, it symbolizes your new life in Christ.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4 ESV)

Does Baptism Save Me?

No.

We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8 ESV)

Baptism is not what saves us. Jesus saves us.

However, baptism is the biblical response of someone who has truly repented and believed the gospel.

Throughout the New Testament, people believed and were then baptized as an act of obedience.

Who Should Be Baptized?

WAnyone who has personally repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ.
The pattern throughout Scripture is:

1. Hear the gospel.
2. Repent and believe.
3. Be baptized.
4. Continue as a disciple of Jesus.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38 ESV)

How Should Someone Be Baptized?

The biblical example is full immersion in water. The word "baptize" comes from a Greek word meaning "to immerse" or "to dip." Jesus Himself was immersed in water.

"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water." (Matthew 3:16 ESV)
Immersion beautifully illustrates burial and resurrection with Christ.

What If I Was Baptized Before I Truly Followed Jesus?

Many people were baptized as children or before they genuinely understood the gospel.
If you have since repented, believed in Jesus, and surrendered your life to Him, many believers choose to be baptized again as a conscious act of obedience and faith.

The important question is not, "Have I been in the water?"
The important question is, "Am I following Jesus?"

What Should I Do After Baptism?

Baptism is not the finish line. It is the beginning of a life of discipleship.
Continue to:

- Read God's Word daily.
- Spend time in prayer.
- Gather with other believers.
- Share your testimony.
- Walk in obedience to Christ.
- Make disciples.

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
(Luke 9:23 ESV)