

Questions About Necessity of Being Rebaptized if Already Baptized in the Roman Catholic Church

By Pastor Ed Anderson

If you were baptized in the Catholic Church and then turn to the Seventh-day Adventist faith, is it necessary to be baptized again?

Answer:

That's a great and important question—and one many people ask when they grow in their understanding of God's Word and come into fuller truth.

What does the Bible say about re-baptism?

The clearest biblical precedent comes from **Acts 19:1–5**, where Paul meets a group of sincere believers who had previously been baptized by John the Baptist. When Paul explains the fuller gospel of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they are **baptized again**:

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”—Acts 19:5

This shows that **when someone learns new foundational truth**, especially regarding Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or God's final message to the world, it can be entirely appropriate—and even **biblically supported**—to be re-baptized.

Why might re-baptism be encouraged after leaving the Catholic Church?

If your Catholic baptism took place **before you fully understood the gospel**, including:

- Salvation by grace through faith alone (not sacraments),
- The full significance of Christ's intercession in the heavenly sanctuary,
- The **true seventh-day Sabbath**,
- The non-biblical teachings that may have shaped your original faith (like purgatory, Sunday sacredness, or praying to saints),

then being re-baptized is a **joyful opportunity** to publicly affirm:

- That you now choose to follow **the whole truth** as it is in Jesus (John 8:32),
- That you understand and accept **Jesus as Savior and Lord**, not a religious system,
- That you are entering into full **fellowship with God's remnant commandment-keeping people** (Revelation 12:17).

Is it required?

Seventh-day Adventists do **not automatically require** re-baptism for every former Catholic. However, it is encouraged **when**:

- The first baptism was done without full understanding of truth,
- The individual has come to a **clear new conviction and transformation**, or
- The person desires a **fresh public recommitment** in light of receiving God's final-day truths.

Baptism is a **personal and sacred step**. No one is forced, but **many choose it** joyfully as a sign of entering into the new light God has revealed.

Final Thought:

Being baptized again is not a rejection of your past spiritual journey—it's a **celebration** of how far God has led you. It says:

"Lord, now that I see more clearly, I choose to follow You more fully."