

10 Things You Need to Know About Baptism

Is being baptized important? Most churches practice some form of baptism, and most people who identify themselves as Christian have experienced some form of Baptism". When the Bible talks about the baptism of a believer, it is referring to the process of being *immersed* into water; consider how Jesus was baptized:

Matthew 3:3 "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.....vs 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water".

Here is a list of the things you ought to know that the Bible says about being baptized.

1. Being baptized culminates the process of salvation. The point you are baptized into water is the point at which you are saved. It is the point where you become a Christian and a child of God.

*1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which **now saves us**--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

2. Being baptized is the moment your sins are taken away. That is what is called sanctification (being made holy) and justification (being made righteous). It is the same thing as calling on the name of the Lord.

*Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? **Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**'*

*Titus 3:5,7 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, **through the washing of regeneration** (Literally "born again") **and renewing of the Holy Spirit..... that having been justified** by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

*1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; **but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

3. Jesus said baptism is the **only** way to see the Kingdom of Heaven in the New Covenant of Christ.

*John 3:3,5 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."..... Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, **I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

4. The Old Testament fore-shadowed baptism in many places. When Noah was saved through water; death was covered up in the water and Noah was preserved. This was an "anti-type" of baptism.

1 Peter 3:20-21when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype (foreshadow) which now saves us—baptism....

Another example is when Israel was saved when passing through the water of the Red Sea; after passing through the water, they entered to the Promised Land, and death (in the form of Pharaoh's army) was covered up in the water (Exodus 14)

As well, Naaman's baptism as commanded by the prophet Elisha for the removal of the Leprosy of his flesh (II Kings 5) parallels the spiritually regenerative effect at our baptism today, particularly when we remember that sickness of the flesh (uncleanliness) is a metaphor for sin (Matt 9:5-9)

In each case, the promised blessing did not occur until AFTER this anti-type of baptism, signifying that baptism comes before blessing.

5. Baptism is the process of putting on Christ, and is the process of being put in Christ. Since all blessings are in Christ, this makes baptism the place where blessings are realized.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

*1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

6. Jesus Himself commands that all men be baptized FOR salvation

*Mark 16:16 "**He who believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

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

7. No one in the book of Acts (the history of the New Testament Church) was saved apart from baptism, or before being baptized

Acts 2:38: The multitudes at Pentecost were Baptized and then saved

Acts 8:15: The people of Samaria believed and were baptized and were then saved

Acts 8:38: The Ethiopian eunuch confessed Jesus as Lord, then was baptized and then saved

Acts 9:18 & 22:16: Saul was visited by Jesus, then prayed, then was baptized and then saved

Acts 11:14&10:48: Cornelius was not saved until he was baptized as Peter commanded

Acts 16:33: A Philippian jailer was saved when he was baptized

Acts 18:8: The Corinthians heard, believed and were baptized

Acts 19:3-5: The Ephesians were baptized again into the correct Baptism for Salvation

8. Being baptized takes us to the cross of Jesus; it makes His death our death to sin, and it makes His resurrection our resurrection. This is the first resurrection spoken of in Revelation 20:6. It is important to know that since baptism is into Christ's death, burial and resurrection, no one who lived and died before Jesus could have been baptized into this (consider the thief on the cross); they are saved in Christ too (Hebrews 9:15).

*Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

*Colossians 2:12 **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,*

9. There is only one baptism. Since baptism is in water, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is NOT part of our plan of salvation today. When we are baptized in water, we are at the same time receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and the atoning blood of Jesus Christ (Spirit, Water and Blood)

1 John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness (to our salvation, per vs. 13) on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

*Ephesians 4:5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**;*

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

10. Baptism is about the heart's response to God.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

If we were to sum up what the Bible says about baptism, we would find that it is through baptism: you are saved; you are put In the body of Christ; you have put on Christ; your sins are washed away; you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; you are born again; you are justified; you are buried with Christ. So, by logical deduction, those who have not been baptized: are NOT saved; are NOT in the body of Christ; have NOT put on Christ; have NOT had their sins washed away; have NOT received the Gift of the Holy Spirit; have NOT been Born Again; have NOT been Justified; have NOT been Buried with Christ.