
BAPTISM

WHY?

1) JESUS WAS BAPTIZED.

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.” Matthew 3:13-15

2) JESUS COMMANDED IT.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

3) THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH PRACTICED BAPTISM.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” Acts 2:41

4) AS A TESTIMONY TO THE WORLD.

Aren't you glad to be a follower of Christ?

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

WHEN?

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER I MAKE A COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD.

“The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.’ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.” Acts 16:29-31,33

Should we wait a while or get baptized immediately? Notice what happens in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts after Philip shares the gospel with a man from Africa, and Ethiopian eunuch. In the context of the story it's clear that the African man makes a commitment to follow Christ. *“As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?’” (v.36)*

They come across some water in the midst of the desert. What a beautiful symbol of refreshment, cleansing, and new beginnings! The African man is baptized right away, the same day he decides to follow Jesus. You don't have to become a Bible scholar before you are baptized. You don't have to wait! There are ten examples of baptism in the book of Acts. Paul's is mentioned twice. In

nine of those ten examples, the new believers are baptized the same day they believe. Paul fasted three days before he was baptized. Believers' baptism by immersion is an immediate step of obedience for those who follow Jesus. If you have not taken that step, maybe you will sense God leading you to take that step. The result will be Christian growth!

HOW?

BY IMMERSION.

The word for baptism is "baptizo," which means to dip, to immerse, to submerge.

*"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **As Jesus was coming up out of the water**, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."
Mark 1:10*

What if I have been baptized after becoming a follower of Christ but the mode of baptism was not immersion? The New Testament method of baptism is immersion because it symbolizes Christ's total immersion into death. He did not just lose consciousness and then get revived while He was in the tomb. Baptism by immersion is a statement that we are giving all of ourselves to Christ, to the One who gave all of Himself for us. Coming up out of the water is a powerful statement of Christ's resurrection, and when we come out of the water, it symbolizes that we are raised to a new beginning as a follower of Jesus. *Romans 6:4* says, *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*