

A Look at **BAPTISM**

A RESOURCE BY

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If God has begun a work in your heart, He will complete it. Read Philippians 1:6. Not only that, but He is able to keep you from failing (read Jude 24). Don't start facing tomorrow's problems today.

What do these verses say to you? How can you apply them?

"I'm fearful of water."

Peter sank when he took his eye off the Master. Put all your fears in God's hands. He will take care of you. No one has drowned while being baptized! Read Matthew 14:28-33. If Christ expected Peter to take such a step of faith, what do you think He requires of you?

Do you trust God with your life? Have you given your fears to Him? If not, now would be a good time to write a simple prayer to God, telling Him you're scared, asking for His help to overcome your fears and committing to trust His goodness no matter what.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:4

COMMON OBJECTIONS

“I don’t think I’m ready.”

If you have received Christ and want to follow Him, there isn’t anything else to get ready. You are ready as soon as you know you have a responsibility to fulfill before God and understand what you’re doing.

Are you at that place? Have you received Christ? Do you want to follow His command and example?

“I have some areas in my life that I want to see changed.”

In every case of baptism recorded in the Bible, it seems people were baptized first before they had a chance to get their life in order. God will bless your obedience by giving you the strength to change in other areas.

Are you ready to be obedient in baptism and trust God for the rest?

“What if I turn my back on Christ?”

Read Acts 22:16. What was Paul told to do in this verse?

Read Acts 2:41. What is the example in this verse for those who trust in Jesus for salvation?

What about Acts 8:12-13? What is the pattern there?

So, what are some of the reasons we should be baptized?

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a symbol, or picture, acted out in an open and public manner. It is a picture of what has spiritually taken place on the inside when you received Jesus Christ as Savior.

BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES:

Our salvation (Romans 6:21)

Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)

Our inner cleansing from sin (Acts 22:16)

Our release from judgment and death (Romans 6:3)

Our new life in Christ (Romans 6:4)

Our entrance into the body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:41)

BASIC STUDY

What words or phrases in Romans 6:3-5 show a connection between Christ's death, burial and resurrection; and us as believers? (*Look closely, there are at least two in each verse.*)

In Romans 6:3-5, Paul talks about the death of Jesus. According to 1 Peter 2:24, what did Jesus do about our sins when He died on the cross?

Also in 1 Peter 2:24, what is the outcome Jesus expects in our lives as a result of His death?

According to Romans 6:4, what definite, tangible evidence in a person's life shows that he personally understands the meaning of Jesus' death?

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED? (AND WHY?)

Baptism is for believers only and it is for all believers. Every person who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are commanded to show allegiance to Christ in the waters of baptism. This was so obvious to the early church that we read repeatedly that people "believed and were baptized." It is up to the individual believer to declare their desire to be baptized. No one else should make that decision for them.

BASIC STUDY

Read Matthew 28:18-20

What did Jesus tell his followers to do? (A disciple is a pupil or learner who follows a teacher and leader.) What two parts are involved?

When should you get baptized, before or after you decide to follow Jesus Christ?

According to this verse, do you need to know everything before you get baptized?

Why did John the Baptist baptize at Aenon, near Salem? (John 3:23)

According to Mark 1:9-10, where was Jesus baptized? In verse 10, how is that described?

What does that tell you about where Jesus was baptized?

Which of the following methods require plenty of water?

Sprinkling _____

Pouring _____

Immersing _____

WHEN SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

It is clear that only believers should be baptized. But when should this event occur? Many people feel that baptism should follow a time of spiritual growth in the new believer's life. But there is nothing in the Bible to indicate this to be desirable. In fact, the pattern in the early church was that people were baptized very soon after they came to Jesus. It is safe to say, then, that as soon as a believer recognizes baptism as a command to be obeyed, and understands the basics of what they are doing, they are ready for baptism.

It may be that you have already undergone a ceremony called "baptism" before you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, but now realize that this event did not satisfy the teaching in God's Word. If that's the case, you should be baptized as a believer according to the standards of Scripture, since the first "baptism" will no longer allow for a clear conscience before God.

BASIC STUDY

According to Acts 2:41, how long did it take people to be baptized after Peter's sermon?

According to Acts 16:33, how long did the Philippian jailer and his family, wait to be baptized?

When Philip was traveling with the Ethiopian eunuch and the eunuch believed, how long did it take him to get baptized?

Number the order of events in the early church...

Acts 2:41	_____	received Peter's word
	_____	were baptized
Acts 8:12	_____	believed Philip's message
	_____	they were baptized
Acts 8:35-36	_____	hears the Good News about Jesus
	_____	was baptized
Acts 18:8	_____	were baptized
	_____	heard Paul and believed

According to these passages, what happened before the people were baptized?

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

According to the Bible, during New Testament times people were always immersed in water during baptism. Since that was practiced then, that is what we practice and require today.

There are at least four reasons why we believe baptism must be done by immersing the believer in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

1. In our English Bible, the word that is translated "baptize" originally meant "dip" or "immerse" in the Greek language (the language in which the New Testament was written). Actually, "baptize" is not a translation of the Greek word, but rather, it is the English way of saying *baptizō* (the Greek word for immerse).
2. There are other words for sprinkle and pour in the Greek language, but none of them are used to refer to baptism, only *baptizō* (meaning immerse).
3. Neither the biblical evidence nor sources outside the Bible from New Testament times, indicate "baptize" means anything other than "immerse."
4. In three different passages, baptism is associated with plenty of water, implying immersion as the method.
5. Scripture implies that baptism is a symbol of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5); and immersion best expresses it.

- *Going under the water – picturing burial and death*

- *Coming up out of the water – picturing life*