

Bible Baptism

Baptism is more than a church doctrine, religious ritual, or rite of passage into the church.

Baptism is where you fully experience the significance of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This lesson will address **frequently asked questions about baptism**. We will use the Bible to answer them.

Some people try to prove a Bible subject by going where it is not mentioned or conveniently avoiding verses and words they don't like.

We must **consider all the Bible says on a subject** to get the complete and accurate scriptural answer.

Also, we must **consider the context** and **use the Bible to interpret the Bible**.

1. Why is baptism important?

Jesus **commanded** it.

Matthew 28:19 " . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved;"

John 3:5 " . . . unless one is born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

2. What is the purpose of baptism?

Baptism unites a person with Christ symbolizing His death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-5 " . . . as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

Galatians 3:26-27 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Colossians 2:12 " . . . buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith . . . "

3. Why be baptized by immersion in water?

Because Jesus was baptized that way. **Examples** of baptism in the New Testament were by immersion.

The Greek word translated "baptize" means to immerse or bury. It never meant to sprinkle or pour.

Matthew 3:6,16 " . . .in the Jordan," "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water;"

Mark 1:9-10 "Jesus . . . was baptized by John in the Jordan. And Immediately, coming up from the water,"

Acts 8:38-39 " . . . went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water,"

Romans 6:4 " . . . buried with Him through baptism"

Ephesians 4:5 " . . . one baptism;"

4. Who should be baptized?

Scriptures teach that baptism is preceded and accompanied by our loving response to the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ, repentance of our sins, and confession of our faith.

- Individuals who are mature enough to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and understand the meaning of sin, repentance of their sins, and the purpose and meaning of baptism.
- People who understand the gospel (the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ) - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- Those who are ready to make a commitment to Christ - Luke 9:23.
- Therefore, baptism was never intended for infants or young children who are not capable of the above action of believing, understanding, and making the required commitment.

5. How do we know that baptism is required for forgiveness of sins, washing away a person's sins, and salvation?

The Bible **commands** baptism and gives the reason why it is required.

Acts 2:38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;"

Acts 22:16 "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

1 Peter 3:21 "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism . . . "

6. What did the people in the New Testament do when taught to accept Jesus?

Examples of conversions in the New Testament showed that they were immediately baptized upon believing in Jesus and repenting of their sins. They did not wait for a convenient time to be baptized in order to obey God's command to be saved.

Acts 2:36-41 Note verses 38 and 41.

Acts 8:5-13 Note verses 12 and 13.

Acts 8:27-40 Note verses 36 and 38.

Acts 9:1-18 Note verse 18.

Acts 22:12-16 Note verse 16.

Acts 16:12-15 Note verses 14 and 15.

Acts 16:22-34 Note verses 31-34.

Acts 16:31 does not mention baptism. Does that mean baptism is not essential?

It also doesn't mention love, but does that mean love is not necessary?

How do we know that we must love the Lord? Because it is taught elsewhere.

Jesus said in Mark 12:30 to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Read Acts 16:33 along with Acts 16:31 for the full story.

Acts 18:8

If you have not been baptized the way the Bible teaches, what are you waiting for?

Now is the right time. Now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2

Don't ignore, neglect, or reject so great a salvation. Hebrews 2:3

Don't risk missing heaven. Hebrews 9:27