

What is Baptism?

Why And How Should I Get Baptized?

By: Ashley Allen with “Poppy” (Pastor Al) Gossan—Christmas Day 2006

What is baptism?



- **Definition:** Baptizo (Greek) To *make whelmed* (that is, *fully wet*). From a primary verb; to *whelm*, that is, **to cover wholly with a fluid - dip**. For example, “...John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there...” (John 3:23) John said, “I baptize with water...” (John 1:26)
- **A spiritual burial**— Paul said, “...*have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.*” (Romans 6:3-5)
- **A spiritual wardrobe**— “*And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes...*” (Galatians 3:27).
- **A spiritual circumcision**— “*When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized.*” (Colossians 2:11-12)
- **A spiritual picture**— “...*God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*” (1 Pet 3:20-21)

Why Should I Get Baptized?



Because:

- **John the Baptist baptized people.** John's baptism was from Heaven. (Matthew 21:25) John the Baptist preached, "...people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven." (Luke 3:3)
- **Jesus got baptized** and said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." (Matthew 3:13-15) Note: The Father was pleased when His Son was baptized. We do not want to be like the Pharisees who, "rejected God's plan for them, for they had refused John's baptism." (Luke 7:29)
- **Jesus' disciples baptized people before His death, burial & resurrection.** "Jesus...was baptizing and making more disciples than John (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—His disciples did)." (John 4:1-2)
- **Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize all people after He died, was buried and rose again.** "...Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) Jesus also said, "Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:16)
- **Peter commanded every believer who repents to be baptized.** "Peter replied, Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)
- **Phillip baptized the Samaritan (part Jew/part Gentile) people who believed.** "But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized...in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 8:12-14)
- **Paul baptized Lydia (Acts 16:15) & the Philippian Jailer after they believed.** "Even at that hour of the night, the jailer...and everyone in his household were immediately baptized." (Acts 16:31-34)
- **Peter commanded believers who were not Jews (at Cornelius' house) to be baptized.** "...he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 10:46-48)

How Should I Be Baptized?



- **After believing** (in Jesus' lordship, death, burial, and resurrection). When Ethiopian Eunuch wanted to be baptized, Phillip told him, "*If you believe with all your heart you may...*" (Acts 8:37) "*...And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.*" (Acts 18:8)
- **After repenting** (changing my mind by turning from sin to God). "*Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."* (Acts 2:38)
- **By being immersed in water.** For example, Phillip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch by dunking him. "*As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."* (Acts 8:34-36)
- **"In the name of Jesus Christ,"** spoken when being baptized. For example, when Paul was baptized by Ananias: "*What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.*" (Acts 22:15) Also, when meeting John the Baptist's disciples, "*Paul said, 'John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.' As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*" (Acts 19:4-5)

