

Baptism

Brief Overview

Baptism is the normal, tangible and obedient response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Its intent is not to "save" in itself. It is intended to be one of the initial steps for receiving and obeying the Gospel (Acts 6:7, Rom. 6:17-18, Rom. 10:16, 2 Thess. 1:8, Heb. 5:9) proceeded by faith and repentance.

Baptism assists us in finalizing our covenant relationship with God on the grounds of true repentance and belief of the Gospel message. It provides a physical token of God's covenant with us, and our commitment to Him to remain obedient to his word until He returns.

Baptism has no saving or cleansing power in itself. This goes double for baptism in the absence of both faith and repentance, such as infant baptism or the baptism of one who has no intention of ceasing from his sinful life.

Baptism is the point of sealing one's faith and repentance with a tangible act of obedience. As Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "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." (Heb.10:22 NKJV).

In the earliest post-Apostolic period, baptism was administered only to those who willingly repented and professed their faith in Christ and the Gospel. Baptism was an act of obedience, not a mystical rite. It was a transaction between the individual and God, not the individual and the Church.

It is well known that ablution or bathing was common in most ancient nations as a preparation for prayers and sacrifice or as expiatory of sin.

Baptism signifies:

1. Faith in, obedience to, and allegiance with Christ
2. Following Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection from the grave to new life in obedience to God.
3. Repentance and cleansing of sin
4. The gospel, described as the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
5. One of the initial acts of being a child of God and minister of the gospel

Strong's Greek Concordance

909. baptisimos -- (the act of) a dipping or washing

... **baptism**, washing. From baptizo; ablution (ceremonial or **Christian**) -- **baptism**, washing. see GREEK baptizo. (baptismois)

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907. baptizo -- to dip, sink

... i.e. Fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of **Christian baptism** -- Baptist, baptize, wash ...

Example of the use of the word: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **BAPTIZED** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38-40)

King James Dictionary

Baptize: To immerse; to dip or dye a thing.

Scripture References

“I **baptize** you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:10-12

Whoever believes and is **baptized** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-17 (Emphasis is on believing unto salvation, not being water baptized into salvation).

Peter replied, “Repent and be **baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:37-39

Those who accepted his message were **baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:40-42

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being **baptized**?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip **baptized** him. Acts 8:35-39 (in Context) Acts 8 (Whole Chapter)

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was **baptized**, Acts 9:17-19

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then *immediately* he and his entire household were **baptized**. Acts 16:32-34

Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were **baptized**. Acts 18:7-9 (in Context)

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On hearing this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. [Acts 19:4-6](#)

And now *what are you waiting for?* Get up, be **baptized** and wash your sins away, calling on his name.' [Acts 22:15-17](#)

Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his death? [Romans 6:2-4](#) (in Context) [Romans 6](#) (Whole Chapter)

For we were all **baptized** by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. [1 Corinthians 12:12-14](#)

For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. [Galatians 3:26-28](#) (in Context) [Galatians 3](#) (Whole Chapter)

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, [Matthew 28:18-20](#)

For Further Study See The Following Links to sermons by John MacArthur

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-370/Believers-Baptism> (video, text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-369/Is-Infant-Baptism-Biblical> (video, text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/1859> Baptism in the Holy Spirit 1 (audio/text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/1704> Baptism in the Holy Spirit 2 (audio/text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/41-3/The-Significance-of-Jesus-Baptism>
(audio/text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/Questions/QA79/Is-Baptism-Necessary-for-Salvation> (text)

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-57/Understanding-Baptism> (audio/text)