

"Go ye therefore, and  
teach all nations,  
baptizing them in the  
name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of  
the Holy Ghost."

MATTHEW 28:19



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# Baptism

an act of *obedience*  
a time of *celebration*



# Baptism

Let's take a look at some questions about baptism:

## **What is it?**

It is a public display of one's faith in Jesus. After giving a public testimony of one's faith in Jesus, a person enters the place of baptism where he or she is put under the water and immediately raised up out of the water, symbolizing his or her death and burial to an old life, and a resurrection to a new life. (Matthew 28:19)

## **Who should be baptized?**

Anyone who has personally repented and believed the message of salvation in Jesus alone, and placed their faith in Him for salvation should be baptized. (Matthew 28:8-10, Acts 2:38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 22:16)

## **Why should a person be baptized?**

One is baptized in obedience to Jesus' command, in recognition of the cleansed and changed heart given by Him. It is a testimony of a new identity in Jesus. It is a part of being an obedient disciple of Jesus and is commanded in the scripture. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-5)

## **When should a person be baptized?**

Baptism should be as soon as possible after placing one's faith in Jesus. (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 26-29)

## **What if I was baptized in a non-Baptist church?**

Baptism of a believer is by immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is required before church membership.

## **Where should a person be baptized?**

Where a person is baptized is not as important as the means and the authority given to it by the New Testament. A believer should be baptized as a picture of their new life in Christ. The person baptizing is authorized to do so by the local New Testament church.

## **What about sprinkling or pouring?**

There is no evidence in the Bible that any method was used other than immersion. The meaning of the word itself describes immersion. Jesus was immersed and the early church appears to have used baptismal pools.

## Some ways churches can celebrate baptism and increase baptisms:

1. Preach and teach on the biblical basis of baptism.
2. Create a new members class for those wanting to follow Jesus.
3. Create a baptism event. (Sacred does not mean without celebration.)
4. When you baptize, use this event to present a picture of the gospel.
5. Recognize entire families who support the new believer.
6. Take a picture of the baptism and print with a certificate and present it at a special time to those after being baptized.
7. When a baptism is taking place it is great to invite others into the baptismal waters at the time of baptism.
8. Have the baptistry close to the congregation.
9. Testimonies of those being baptized are powerful when used at the baptism. (Videos of the person sharing their testimony can be shown prior to the baptism.)
10. Create a celebration around the baptismal event.

## Ways you can celebrate your own baptism:

1. Go with the person who led you to Jesus and share your salvation story with your family, friends, and co-workers.
2. Invite those you know to support you by attending the baptism celebration. Send out invitations!
3. Invite those you don't know to the baptism celebration and use it as an opportunity to share your salvation story. Follow-up to establish a gospel-centered relationship.

