

1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23; Acts 22:16

The Bible says: But we are all like an _____ thing, and all our righteousnesses are like _____ rags. (Isa. 64:6) All have sinned. (Rom. 3:23) Arise and be baptized, and _____ your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)



Note: Baptism is God's method of washing away our sins. Because everyone has sinned and even our goodness is still not good enough to meet God's standard, the Lord commands us to get baptized as a means of washing away our sins. The act of baptism is an act of internal cleansing. Through the waters of baptism, we can wash away our sinful nature and become new people. Like marriage, baptism is a commitment. When we fall in love with Christ, we get baptized and enter into a more personal relationship with God.

2. WHAT METHOD OF BAPTISM IS TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE?

Ephesians 4:4, 5; John 3:23; Matthew 3:16

The Bible says: There is...one baptism. (Eph. 4:4, 5) Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was _____ there. (John 3:23) When He had been baptized, Jesus _____ immediately from the _____. (Matt. 3:16)

Note: There are many different methods of baptism practiced today. Some people sprinkle with water, some drip oil on the head, and some even baptize with rose pedals, but the Bible says there is only one correct method of baptism. The only method of baptism found throughout the scriptures is for the entire body to be submersed under water (See Acts 8:38, 39). Dunking the body under the water represents burial of sins, while rising out of the water represents coming back to life in Christ (Rom. 6:4-6). Since God instituted this symbol, it is important to conform to God's method of baptism.

3. WHEN SHOULD SOMEONE GET BAPTIZED?

Isaiah 1:18; 7:16; Luke 2:42

The Bible says: Come now, and let us _____ together The Child shall _____ to refuse the evil and choose the good. (Isa. 1:18; 7:16) When He [Jesus] was _____ years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. (Luke 2:42)

Note: While there is no required age one must reach before they are allowed to be baptized, a child must be old enough to reason. In the times of Christ, twelve was an age of accountability, but it is not necessary to wait this long until baptism. The only standard is that one must be old enough to make the decision on their own. By this standard, infant dedication is appropriate, but infant baptism is not. Whether old or young, if one is old enough to reason and the Spirit is leading them in this direction, they should not delay (2 Cor. 6:2)

4. WHAT IS THE ACT OF BAPTISM SYMBOLIC OF?

Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16; 2 Corinthians 11:2; John 3:7

The Bible says: We were _____ with Him through baptism into death. (Rom. 6:4) Be baptized, and _____ away your sins. (Acts 22:16) For I have _____ you to one husband, that I may present you...to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2) You must be _____ again. (John 3:7)



Note: According to the Bible, baptism is symbolic of spiritual death. That is, death to your old life of sin. Just as Jesus took our sins, died with them, and was buried, we too must die to sin and bury our sinful past. The Bible also equates baptism to bathing, washing away our sins. Going down in the water is like taking a plunge in the bathtub, washing away all the filth. In another sense, baptism is somewhat like our marriage to Christ, beginning our life together with the Lord. Finally, baptism is, in another sense, a kind of birth, as we are born again in the Spirit (See John 3:6, 7).

5. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT I SHOULD DO TO GET READY FOR BAPTISM?

Matthew 28:19, 20

The Bible says: Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, _____ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, _____ to observe all things that I have commanded you (Matt. 28:19, 20)



Note: Just as before you marry you need to learn about the person you are going to marry, before baptism you need to learn what you are being baptized into, or what you are signing up for, before you commit. While being baptized into Jesus was a new truth in Jesus' day, that is so ambiguous today that it means nothing. Jesus said we are to baptize people, teaching them. Teaching is an important part of baptism, so go through some basic doctrinal classes first so you know what you are getting baptized into.

6. WHAT TAKES PLACE AT BAPTISM?

Mark 1:8; Acts 10:47

The Bible says: He will baptize you with the _____. (Mark 1:8) Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the _____ just as we have? (Acts 10:47)

Note: When we surrender our life to Christ, obeying Him through baptism, we then receive the Holy Spirit to help us in our Christian life. Jesus then lives inside us through the Holy Spirit, guiding us in truth, discernment, encouragement, comfort, power, and more. At the same time, we are also given the gifts of the Spirit, which are special talents we can use to further the kingdom of God, like teaching, singing, and helps, along with the fruits of the Spirit, which include love, joy, peace, and more.

7. DOES A PERSON HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED?

Mark 16:16; John 3:5

The Bible says: He who believes and is baptized will _____; but he who does not believe will be _____. (Mark 16:16) Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he _____ enter [heaven]. (John 3:5)

Note: While the act of baptism itself does not save you, baptism is essential for salvation. Those who believe enough to be baptized will be saved. Those who do not may be lost. While baptism is a condition of salvation, some who have not been baptized will still be in heaven. Like the thief on the cross, some may not have the opportunity to get baptized but will still be in heaven (See Luke 23:43). Others may not realize it's importance (See Acts 17:30). But if you are able and know the truth, you need to be baptized.

8. IS IT NECESSARY TO BE BAPTIZED INTO A SPECIFIC CHURCH OR DENOMINATION?

1 Corinthians 12:12, 13

The Bible says: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that _____ ... so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into _____. (1 Cor. 12:12, 13)



Note: It is just as important to be baptized into a church family as it is for a baby to be born into a family. You see, when you are newly baptized, you are a newborn baby in Christ (See Heb. 5:13). Those who get baptized but never commit to a church family are spiritual orphans. Very few make it because they don't have the support and guidance they need. When you are baptized into Christ, you become part of the body of Christ. As a part of a body, you must submit to the rest of the body, since each member is dependent on the others, and helps strengthen each other.

9. ARE THERE EVER REASONS TO BE RE-BAPTIZED?

Acts 19:3, 5

The Bible says: "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into _____" ... When they heard this, they were _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:3, 5)



Note: In general, communion is a form of rebaptism, so we do not need to be rebaptized if we slip into sin. However, the Bible does show an example of someone, after learning new truths, being baptized into a new understanding of the truth. This would be one reason for rebaptism. Or if someone willfully returned to a life of sin and felt the need to be baptized again, they could be rebaptized if they so desired. Finally, if you were baptized as an infant and never made a personal decision, it would be wise to be rebaptized.

10. WHAT SHOULD A PERSON EXPECT AFTER THEY GET BAPTIZED?

1 John 2:1; Galatians 3:26

The Bible says: My little _____, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an _____ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2:1) For you are all _____ of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:26)

Note: First, let me tell you what not to expect. Don't expect to feel different. You may just come out of the water feeling the same, except wetter, but we don't walk by feeling. We walk by faith, believing that God has given us His Spirit as promised. Also, don't expect to be perfect. You just made the devil your number one enemy and you are a babe in Christ, so you will fall at times, as babies do. Just get back up. What you can expect is God's power and grace; power to overcome sin, grace and forgiveness for the times you fall.

IS BAPTISM NECESSARY?

