

# Baptism

## What is Baptism all about?

The New Testament gives two ordinances (or commandments) for all Christians to follow: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (or communion). This lesson is intended to give the Bible's clear and definite teaching on the subject of Baptism so the individual understands perfectly what God's intention is regarding baptism.

## I. What Is Baptism?

**A. Baptism is the total immersion of the body in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

1. When Jesus was giving the church its final instructions He commanded us to... "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost". Matthew 28:18.
2. Note some examples: Acts 8:26-39, A man who had just been saved was immersed down into the water that was available.

**B. Baptism means dip, immerse or place under (from the Greek word, "baptizo").**

**C. Baptism is an act of obedience, not part of salvation.**

**NOTE:** I Peter 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

**D. Baptism is a symbolic act. Baptism has two symbols.**

1. It pictures the gospel. The gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for sinners. When the baptismal candidate is put down in the water, he/she pictures the fact that Christ died and was buried for them. When the baptismal candidate is raised out of the water, he/she pictures the fact that Christ was raised from the dead for him.
2. It pictures the fact that when we took Christ as our Savior; we died to our old life of sin and became a new creation in Christ. When the baptismal candidate is put down in the water, he/she pictures putting the old sinful human nature (old life) in a grave to be buried forever. When the candidate is raised out of the water, he/she pictures that his/her life has been raised from a life of sin to a new life in Christ.

## II. Who Should Be Baptized?

**A. Only people who have been saved, that is, only those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior should be baptized.**

1. Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."
2. Acts 8:12 "But when they believed Phillip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
3. Acts 16:30-31 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved and thy house."

4. Acts 16:33 “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”

**B. The clearest case of an individual’s baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39.**

**NOTE:** Acts 8:36, The Ethiopian asked, “See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Phillip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**III. When Should A Person Be Baptized?**

**A. As soon as they believe on the Lord for the forgiveness of their sins. See Acts 8:36 again.**

**B. As soon as they understand these important biblical principles about Baptism there should be a desire to follow the Lord in Baptism.**

**IV. Where Should A Person Be Baptized?**

**A. In the local New Testament Church.**

**NOTE:** One of the greatest blessings God has given to the Bible believing Church is the opportunity to baptize the Lord Jesus Christ’s converts. The local assembly is to be the agency through which the Gospel is proclaimed and it is also her joy to see that fruit harvested for the Lord. Baptism is that outward proclamation that the individual has been saved, and the Church is the place where that message is to be given.

**V. The Method of Baptism.**

**A. Baptism can only be performed in one way, by immersion. In the Bible no one was ever baptized without being immersed.**

1. Acts 8:38 “... and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch: and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...”
2. Matt. 3:16 “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...”

**NOTE:** Nowhere in the Bible are we commanded to baptize infants. However, we are given examples of dedicating our children to the Lord through the example of Samuel and Hannah.

**VI. The Motive for Baptism – It is an act of:**

A. **OBEDIENCE** - Matthew 28:18-20; “...All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth. 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

B. **LOVE** - John 14:15; “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

C. **JOY** - Acts 2:41: “then they that gladly received his word were baptized.”

**Questions on Baptism**

1. What does the word “baptism” mean?
2. Is “pouring” or “sprinkling” a correct method for baptism?
3. Who is a candidate for baptism?
4. Where should a person be baptized?
5. According to the Bible, does your baptism measure up?