

WHAT ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED TWICE?

We recommend you be baptized again, if you have not been baptized by immersion, since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience but simply reflects your desire to be baptized Scripturally. An important thing to know is that if you were baptized as a baby, it is not the same thing as Biblical believer's baptism. As we see in Scripture, this act of immersion occurs after you commit your life to Christ in salvation. Many parents have their children baptized as a sign of dedication to God. Many churches have a dedication service for infants and children that emphasizes the parent's role in raising a child to follow Christ. While such ceremonies certainly have meaning for the parents, the Bible clearly teaches that any person, who receives Christ by faith, should then follow that commitment by being baptized.

CAN A FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time.

WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

You may have to answer two questions: "do you believe Jesus has forgiven you? Are you ready to commit to following Jesus for the rest of your days?" The pastor will simply introduce you and explain that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You will be lowered just under the water and brought back up; then you will leave the water to get changed.

I'M READY; WHAT DO I DO?

Simply come to the Next Steps Station at the end of one of our worship services, and let one of the pastors know of your desire to be baptized. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life." —Romans 6:4 (ESV)

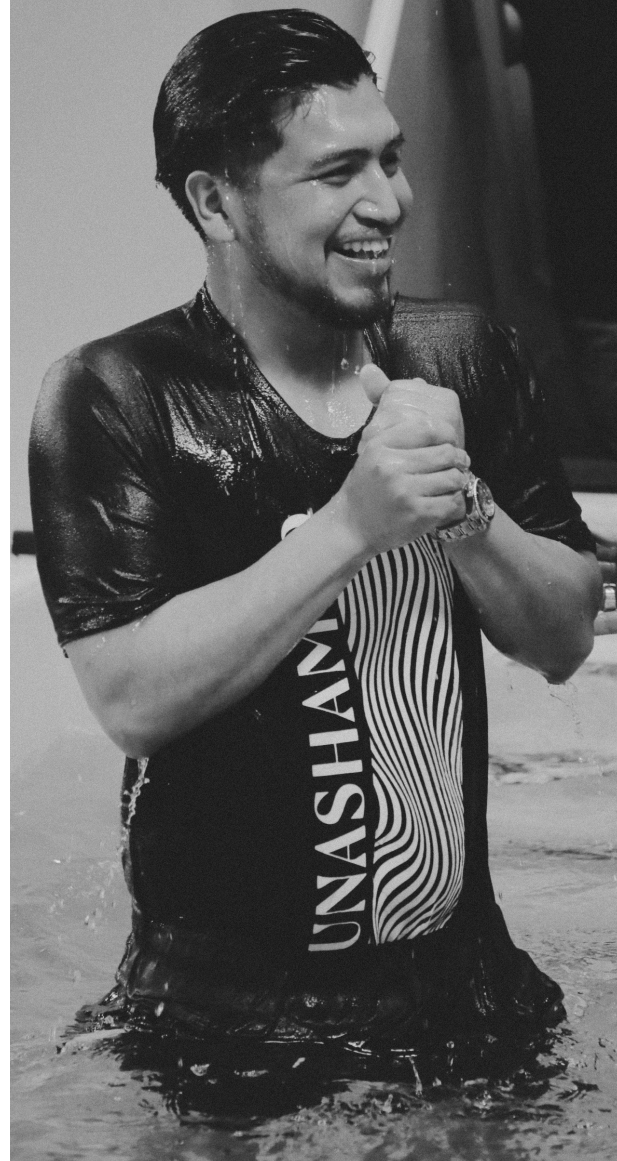


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BAPTISM

RAISED TO NEW LIFE



WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. Because you want to follow Christ's example. Jesus Himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet He humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow.

"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan." —Mark 1:9 (ESV)

2. Because Christ commanded believers to be baptized. Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." —John 14:15 (ESV)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." —Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

3. Because baptism shows you are a believer. Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. Water baptism is the next step after salvation and is an important foundation for the Christian life (Hebrews 6:1-2).

"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." —Acts 2:41 (ESV)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. Baptism is a visible act with a spiritual meaning. Water baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb, and His resurrection.

"... Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." —1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 (ESV)

"Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." —Colossians 2:12 (ESV)

2. Baptism is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the 'old life' and we rise to walk in a 'new life'. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it is the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart, a commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." —2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." —Romans 6:4 (ESV)

3. Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not 'save' you; only your faith in Christ does that.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." —Ephesians 2:8, 9 (ESV)

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. As Jesus was baptized – by being immersed in water. The word "baptize" comes from the Greek word baptizo which means "to immerse or dip under water."

"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." —Mark 1:9-10 (ESV)

2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer.

"... then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ..." —Acts 8:38, 39 (ESV)

3. After we have received Christ. You shouldn't delay. Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can and should be baptized.

"So those who received his word were baptized ..." —Acts 2:41 (ESV)

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing." —Acts 8:35-39 (ESV)