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Minister

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Water Baptism



What is water baptism?

Water Baptism is one of the explicit instructions that Jesus gave to his followers.

The English word 'Baptize' comes from 'Baptizo' (Greek) which in turn comes from the root 'bapto'.

Bapto -To Dip

 It carries the idea of dipping a substance into a fluid and then taking it out again.

It means whelmed or covered wholly with fluid

To baptize something, then, means to completely submerge it in a liquid.

Water baptism is a public profession of a person's repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and a way of giving outward testimony to an inward work of God.

Your baptism declares your faith, shares
Christ's burial and resurrection,
symbolizes your death to your old life,
and announces your new life in Christ.

AMAZING FACTS

We discover three amazing facts in the religious world of Judaism, Hinduism and Islamism.

(a) Judaism persecutes the baptized. Among the Jews, a person may be a secret Christian without being persecuted. The greatest difficulty with many hundreds and thousands of Jews is not in believing the Lord Jesus but rather in being baptized. Once the person is baptized he is liable to be cast out and disowned.

(b) Hinduism ostracizes the baptized. In India, no one will lay hands on you if you remain unbaptized. But as soon as you are baptized, you will be ostracized. It is as if the world permits you to have eternal life but stands against anyone being baptized.

(c) Islamism murders the baptized. The reaction of Islamism is more severe. It is rare to find a living Mohammedan who has turned Christian, for the Moslems kill those that do. One of the most successful workers among the Mohammedans, Dr. Zwemer, once declared that his work would never be big since the results of his labor all ended in death; no one lived on. Among the Mohammedans, those who believe must immediately be sent away or else within two or three days after baptism they will be murdered.

Baptism is a public announcement that declares, "I have come out of the world." Never take the word "salvation" purely in the personal sense. According to the Bible, it is more a matter of coming out of the world than of escaping hell.

Note

'Bapto' and 'Baptizo' are never used in the passive sense.

This means that water is never said to be baptized on someone; rather, someone is baptized into the water.

Why should I be baptised?

Only God's grace can save you, through your personal faith in Jesus. However, although water baptism does not "save" you, it has a significant role at the beginning of the Christian life.

When you are baptised, it shows three important things about your beginning as a Christian:

1. Obedience - "If Jesus said so, I will do it."

Jesus specifically instructed that His followers be baptised after they had come into a saving relationship with Him.

This is not merely a suggestion, but rather a command to be acted upon.

In fact, beginning with the early church, the Christian church has practiced baptism throughout its history.

Matthew 28:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. Identification – "I am a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of his body."

We identify with Jesus Christ and His people when we are baptised. When you are physically baptised, you outwardly express the inward reality that you have now died to your old life, and are now resurrected to new life in Christ. You identify with Jesus Christ and make a public statement that you are a true follower of His as you are baptised in His name.

Romans 6:3-4 (NIV)

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

3. Declaration - "I want others to know."

Not only do we privately acknowledge our belief in Christ, but we go public with our faith, and declare the fact that we have decided to become a follower of Christ.

This public declaration is a very meaningful experience as it is also a public witness to others who have not yet decided to follow Christ .It is also a powerful time for witnessing changed lives and for telling our stories.

Acts 2:41 New International Version (NIV)

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

When should I be baptized?

When should I be baptized?

1.In the Bible, we find that those who heard and accepted the Gospel were baptized 'immediately'. There was no delay

(Acts 2:41 NIV). Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:36-39 New International Version (NIV) ³⁶ 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?" [37] [a] 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:12 (NIV) ¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 16:31-34 (NIV)

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God he and his whole household.

The only exception was in the case of Paul who was baptized after 3 days, and that too, for no fault of his (Acts 9:18). Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Is it okay to be baptized more than once?

- 1. In addition, if you have lost your relationship with Christ and have come back to God, you are also welcome to be baptized again.
- 2. Some people, however, may have been baptized earlier in their life (such as in the case of infant baptism) without understanding the significance of baptism, or perhaps they did not truly repent and receive Jesus as their Savior. In such cases it is very important to be re-baptized as a public profession of faith.

1. Baptism by immersion illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. – Colossians 2:12

How should I be baptised?-Immersion 2. Immersion illustrates my new life as a Christian.

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. – Romans 6:4

3. Because Jesus was baptised that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, He went up out of the water. – Matthew 3:16

4. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion (which best symbolises a burial and resurrection).

And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. – Acts 8:38

5. The founders of denominations agree.

"I would have those who are to be baptised to be entirely immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies." – Martin Luther

"Buried with Him, alludes to baptising by immersion according to the custom of the first church." – John Wesley

Other Evidences for Baptism as Immersion

- Didache: An early handbook on Christian ministry, written between 100-110 A.D., distinguishes between 'pouring' (ekxeo) and 'immersion' (baptizo).
- Philip Schaff (Scholar on Church History), Martin Luther, John Calvin: They state that 'immersion' was the custom of the ancient church.
 - Ist Century Jewish Historian): Describes John the Baptist as 'John the Dipper'.
 - Baptism for those Gentiles who joined the Jewish faith was by 'immersion'.
 - There is another Greek word that can be used for 'sprinkling' (Rhantizo'
- It wasn't until A.D.1311 that the Roman Catholic Church at the Council of Ravenna made 'sprinkling' or 'immersion' alternatives as modes of Baptism.
- It was in 1644 that the Church of England adopted 'sprinkling' by vote of Parliament.

Are we to be baptized using the Trinitarian formula OR in the name of Jesus?

We are to be baptized 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt. 28:19, 20).

The reason the Trinitarian formula is not mentioned in the Book of Acts is because at the time, there was emphasis was on the difference between the baptism of John or the Jewish baptisms and the baptism which Jesus had introduced.

How old does a person have to be in order to be baptized?

Though the Bible does not state a minimum age at which a person may be baptized, an individual believer should be old enough to understand the significance of baptism.

Significance of Water Baptism

Significance of Water Baptism

1. It is an Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ

Rom. 6:3-4;- ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

In Baptism, the Christian testifies to his faith in Christ and His work on the cross.

He is publicly declaring his faith in the Gospel.

He is basically 'identifying' and 'joining' with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He is declaring that Jesus died for him, was buried for him and was raised for him and considers himself as having died, buried and risen with Jesus.

Significance of Water Baptism 2. It is a Clothing with the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:27)

In Baptism, the Christian is 'clothing himself' with Christ.

Through this act, he is declaring that 'he belongs to Jesus' and that henceforth it is no longer 'he that lives but Christ'.

Just as a uniform declares which school a person belongs to, baptism works in the same way to declare that the believer belongs to Jesus.

It is a public testimony that the person being baptized is now a Christian.

Significance of Water Baptism

3- It is an Expression of the reception of Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)

In Baptism, the Christian expresses outwardly the fact that he has received forgiveness of sins.

This Scripture portion reads: Repent and be baptized 'for' the forgiveness of sins...

This does not mean that we receive forgiveness of sins only if and when we are baptized.

The word 'for' (Greek 'eis') means here: 'on account of', 'because of'.

The verse thus reads: "Repent and be baptized on account of having received the forgiveness of sins".

Forgiveness can never come through Baptism. It comes only through Jesus

(Luke. 24:47; and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 5:31; 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

Acts 10:43; All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Significance of Water Baptism

4. It is the Testimony of a Good Conscience

In Baptism, the Christian testifies that he has received a good conscience towards God. We were enemies with God due to our sins. But through our relationship with Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled and now have peace with God

1 Pet. 3:21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.[a] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Rom. 5:1; Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Cor. 5:18-19. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Significance of Water Baptism <u>5. It is an Entrance into a New Life</u>

In Baptism, the Christian publicly proclaims an end to his old way of life-the old order. The old world system is henceforth buried or submerged under water and he comes out into God's government or system. He is henceforth joining and fellowshipping with the church, the people of God.

In those days, baptism to a Jew in the name of Jesus Christ meant giving up Judaism and losing all fellowship of his nation with all his political rights and privileges.

Acts 2:40-42; With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Recipient of Water Baptism

The Bible commands those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit

Matthew. 28:19; 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

Why Infants are not eligible for Baptism

No Biblical Evidence.

The whole Significance of Baptism proves that no infant can take part in it.

The Christian life is one where each individual is held accountable to God. There is no room for proxy. So an infant cannot take baptism with another person believing on its behalf.

Jesus commanded that 'disciples' be baptized. A disciple is a follower, a learner who can be taught. A disciple has a Master.

An infant can never be a disciple!

How Infant Baptism arose

This doctrine was first mentioned by Irenaeus (2nd Century A.D.), opposed by Tertullian and later became a practice in the 5th Century.

Historically, Infant Baptism arose because of false teachings of 'Sacramentalism'

(Baptism gives a person special or mystical grace) and 'Baptismal Regeneration'

(Forgiveness of sins requires Baptism).

Some 'Political Reasons' were also there. The Roman Catholic Church wanted to secure everyone into her system. By making everyone from birth itself a "Christian", the Church made sure that the people belonged to it and were under its control.

What the Bible does say about Children

We do not have to fear whether infants or little children who die before hearing the Gospel will perish in hell.

God is just, merciful and loves all children, whether they are born in Christian homes or not He does not hold them accountable until they are able to discern good from evil

The duty of a parent is only to bring up children in the fear of the Lord (Eph. 6:4) and to train them in the right way (Prov.22:6).

Let's look at some other examples of water baptism in the New Testament:

John the Baptist baptized those who would repent (Mark 1:5).

On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 new believers were baptized (Acts 2:41).

The Samaritans that believed were baptized (Acts 8:12).

Paul was baptized three days after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:18).

Cornelius and some other Gentiles were baptized (Acts 10:47).

Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15).

The Philippian jailer and his household were baptized (Acts 16:33).

Many Corinthians were baptized (Acts 18:8).

The Ephesian disciples were baptized (Acts 19:5).

What is stopping you from being Baptized?



