

Being baptised

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What is baptism?

The word 'baptism' comes from the Greek word *bapto* which means to *dip, sink, immerse, plunge into*. So to 'baptise' simply means to immerse in.

There are a number of baptisms (immersions) mentioned in the Bible:

Baptism in Christ

Galatians 3:26,27, 1 Corinthians 12:13,14

Baptised by: The Holy Spirit

Baptised in: Christ

Purpose: salvation

Main actions:

- you repent (turn away from your sins)
- you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord

Results:

- you are saved
- you are part of the Body of Christ
- you receive the Holy Spirit
- you have eternal life
- you are a Christian

Baptism in water

Romans 6 3,4, Matthew 3:15

Baptised by: a Christian

Baptised in: water

Purpose: dying to sin

Main actions:

- you declare publicly that you are a Christian and that you want to live for Him
- you are immersed in water
- you turn your back on the old life, put your past behind you and rise to a new life

Results:

- symbolically you show you have moved from death to life
- the power of sin from your old life is broken
- you die to sin and are alive to righteousness

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, Luke 11:13
John 7: 37-39

Baptised by: Jesus Christ

Baptised in: The Holy Spirit

Purpose: Power for ministry

Main actions:

- you ask the Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit
- you open yourself to the Holy Spirit and let Him fill you

Results:

- the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you are filled with the Holy Spirit
- you receive power to live for Jesus and share the Gospel.

Baptism in fire

Matthew 3:11 (for cleansing)

Baptism in suffering

Mark 10:38 (Jesus suffering on the Cross)

Baptism in Moses

1 Corinthians 10:1 (The Israelites coming under Moses' leadership) as they were led through the wilderness by the cloud and passed through the Red Sea).

Baptism in Christ (salvation); baptism in water, and baptism in the Holy Spirit are all vital steps at the beginning of our Christian lives.

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38.

<i>Repent</i>	<i>be baptized</i>	<i>receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.</i>
baptism in Christ	water baptism	baptism in the Holy Spirit

Water baptism

Who can be baptized?

Anyone who has repented and received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. In other words any Christian.

Why be water baptized?

Jesus said *"It is proper to do this, to fulfill all righteousness"*. Matthew 3:15. Baptism is an important initial step in the Christian life, but it is far more than a rite or a duty. It can be a significant turning point in your life, in which God does some wonderful things in and for you, by the Holy Spirit.



What happens in water baptism?

You are immersed in water and then raised up from the water. This immersion is both *symbolical* and *experiential*.

Symbolically

The steps in your baptism symbolize what God has done in your life

- Before you accepted Christ you were unclean (due to sin).
- You were washed clean by the blood of Christ.
- You have been raised up to eternal life.

Experientially

When you are baptized you follow the same pattern as Jesus did in His death and resurrection. Jesus died, was buried and rose again to new life. So in your baptism you go down into the water, die to sin, and are raised up to live a new life. *All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were buried with Him through baptism unto death, in order that, just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we may live a new life.* Romans 6:3,4. You turn your back on sin and will *no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.* Romans 6:6,7

The Holy Spirit is also involved in your water baptism. He may come upon you in a powerful way so be open to Him as you come up out of the water. If you haven't received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you at this point and do what He wants to do in your life.

Water baptism can be a significant turning point in your life. You are declaring that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and that you are a Christian. You are recognizing and appropriating what He has accomplished for you at the Cross. You are turning your back on sin, and going forward into a new life in Christ. You are recognizing that the power of sin in your life has been broken and that you can go forward to live a victorious Christian life.

Preparing for your baptism

Key verse:

Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 38

Baptism in Christ (salvation)

Questions:

Have you received Jesus as your Saviour?
Have you repented of all known sin?
How much is Jesus Lord of your life?
How determined are you to live as a genuine Christian for the rest of your life?

Actions:

Spend some time alone with God, reflecting on your relationship with Him. Sort out whether or not He is Lord of all aspects of your life and whether you are willing to turn your back on anything that is not His will.

Write out a testimony describing what Jesus means to you, why you want to be baptised, and how you want to live for Him in the future.

Baptism in water

Questions:

Why do you want to be baptized?
Are you willing to die to your old life?
Have you decided to live for Jesus always?
Are you willing to declare to the Church and to the world that you belong to Jesus?

Actions:

Identify who you would like to baptise you. If they are willing inform the Church and make the necessary arrangements. Explain to the person who will be baptizing you why you want to be baptised. Tell them where you are at with the Lord and what you are hoping for in your baptism. Make sure your heart is ready as you go forward to be baptised.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Questions:

Are you thirsty for more of God?
Are you willing and keen to share Christ with others?
Do you recognise that you need God's power to be effective in ministry?
Are you will to open your life to the Holy Spirit so He can empower you to serve God?

Actions:

As you come up out of the water ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Be open to Him and let Him fill you as the group prays for you. Live out the newness of life that God has given you, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Share with others the wonderful things that God has done for you.

