



## Baptism and the Holy Spirit

Jesus received the baptism in the Holy Spirit after His baptism. Scripture associates the two together. Acts 2v38. Baptism marks a time to really start to seek the Lord for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



## Child Baptism

As we have seen the things we associate with baptism;

- Obedience.
- Repentance.
- Declaration.
- Identification.

Are all beyond the scope of an infant.

There are many historic and traditional reasons that the established Churches "sprinkle" infants. The only scriptural basis is several passages that talk of whole families being baptised, even then no age is indicated. Acts 16v15, 16v33. It's connection with circumcision is particular to the understanding of covenant rather than to that of age. Colossians 2v11-12.

It is best to see infant baptism as a form of dedication. Many who practice it see it in much the same way that we would see dedication. We have no fixed age at which we baptise. Each case is assessed on its own merits, but understanding is the key consideration.



## Dedication

We consider it a privilege to dedicate babies & children. In doing so we:

- Thank God for them.
- Commit them to God.
- Accept responsibility for them before God.
- We pray in faith that they will come to know Jesus.
- We bless them.

This is very scriptural and very precious, but it should not be confused with baptism.



## Epilogue

It is a Scriptural obligation on the believer to be baptised and on the Church to baptise. For both the resulting blessings are manifold. If you have not been baptised then it is something you should consider. If you have been baptised, remember the statement you made and keep on considering yourself dead to sin and alive to Christ.



## Why don't we baptise infants?

**Does this deny faith or deny them standing before God?**

**Why do we baptise by immersion?**

**What does baptism represent?**

**What statement are we making when we are baptised?**

**What do you think will change when you are Baptised?**

**What does Baptism mean for you?**

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# FREEDOM

## Christian Church

### Water Baptism



## First thoughts

Our faith is not based on rituals, instead it is founded on a personal relationship with Jesus. The New Testament does not impose an order of service on today's church. Instead it gives a set of guidelines which each generation has expressed in a manner appropriate to the needs of its age. Prayer, worship, teaching etc are all part of our life, but the Bible does not give us a liturgy or catechism that we must adhere to.

But we are given two rituals to follow, they are; water baptism and holy communion.

These are sometimes called ordinances (because Christ ordered them to be done) or Sacraments.



## Sacrament

Sacrament comes from Latin, it means 'a thing set apart as sacred', in New Testament times it had three meanings;

- A sum of money deposited prior to court action.
- A religious pledge or commitment.
- An oath of allegiance taken by a soldier.

It is used to translate the Greek word "Mysterion" (a mystery now revealed, or a secret with symbolic significance) Colossians 1v26, Ephesians 3v6, 1 Corinthians 15v51.



## A sacrament is;

- Something instigated by Christ
- Something ordered by Christ
- Something we do, (not something done to us)
- Something that identifies us with Christ
- Something visible (sensible)
- A Declaration ( we are saying something by doing it)
- Associated with a work of grace, (it has an effect)



## Baptism

The word Baptism is from the Greek "Baptizo" It means to immerse in or dip into. It was used of Dyeing and drowning. So baptism in water means to be immersed (submerged) in water, and then to come out again.



## Key verse

*Peter replied, "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"*



## Jesus instigated and commanded baptism.

*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, Matthew 28:19*



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Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

Jesus was baptised Himself. Matthew 3v13-17. Not because He had need to repent, but as an example to us, to obey the fathers will and to highlight the importance He attached to it. Jesus baptism marked the start of His public ministry and His infilling with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus baptised others, to be precise it was Jesus disciples who baptised for Him. John 3v22, 4v2.

The apostles continued the practice, putting a major emphasis on it. Acts 2v38, 8v38 18v8

Baptism was not a new idea. The Jews of Jesus day practiced baptism, the Law commanded it. It was called a 'mikvah' total immersion in water, done regularly for ritual purity. Leviticus 22v6. Others (the Essenes) baptised to deny sin. Also when someone converted to Judaism, baptism marked the end of a long process and effected conversion.



### How we baptise.

We baptise by submerging the person for a brief moment in water. This is in keeping with the Hebrew tradition, the meaning of the Creek word and New Testament practice, (there are references to going into the water and much water). Early Church histories show this was the understood method of baptism through out the first century, eg the Diatche. Baptism is visible and public.

We baptise in (literally into) the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Mat 28v19.



### This means three things;

The baptiser represents the Godhead.

We Baptise into God and into faith in Him.

The person being Baptised accepts God and is accepted by Him.

**We baptise** in (Literally on) the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2v38, 8v16, 19v5, Gal 3v27). This is not a separate or additional baptism, there is only one baptism, Ephesians 4v5. It indicates that we baptise on Christ's command and by His authority. The person being baptised is making a commitment to Christ and accepting His work on the cross.

**We baptise** on confession of faith. Mark 16v16. Believe and be baptised, repent and be baptised. Acts 2v38, Acts 16v31-33. Baptism is subsequent on making a choice to follow Jesus. It follows repentance and is an act of faith. In Baptism we are making a "Pledge of a good conscience towards God" 1 Peter 3v21



### Who can be baptised? Acts 2v38 Acts 2v41

All who sincerely repent of their sins and exercise a living faith in the Lord are eligible for baptism. There is no age or study obligations attached by Scripture. However most Churches want to be sure that candidates for baptism;

Understand what they are doing.

Understand it's implications

Are serious about their faith.



It is interesting that Peter commanded Cornelius, to be baptised. Acts 10u48.

### Do you need to be baptised to be saved?

The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith, it does not depend on whether we are baptised. But we do need to be baptised to be obedient to Jesus command. We ignore something that the Bible so clearly emphasises at our peril.



### A Declaration

Baptism is a public declaration and confirmation of a personal decision to follow Jesus. Romans 10v10. It is a statement of faith and a witness. It is an act of Obedience to Christ's commands. Jesus said "If you love me you will obey what I command" John 14v15. Obedience in baptism is a declaration of intent to live a life of obedience.

People outside the Church often associate baptism with Church membership. But you are not baptised into a Church, but into Christ.



### The symbolism of Baptism

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.* Romans 6:3-4

*having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.* Colossians 2:12

Going into the water is like dying with Christ. Going under the water is being buried with Christ. Coming out of the water is being raised to a new life.

We are identifying with Christ, His death and His resurrection. We are saying my old way of life died when Jesus died. Romans 6v8. We are acknowledging that God has given us new life along with Christ.

Christ died to sin in order that this man might die to sin.

Christ rose from the dead in order that this man might live a new life of righteousness.

We are baptised once, but in a way it effects us every day because on a daily basis we need to reckon ourselves to be dead to the old nature and alive to the new. 1 Cor 15v31



### What does water represent? Hebrews 10v22 Genesis 6v17

### What does Acts 22v16 say happens at baptism? Is this true?

Clearly the act of baptism does not cleanse us from our sin, only Jesus blood can do that. But it is symbolic of our sins being washed away. It is an outward expression of an inward reality. Baptism symbolises conversion. It is as though we are publicly identifying with Jesus work on the Cross.



### What happens to those who are Baptised? Galatians 3v27

We have taken on the calling Christ has put on our lives.

We have taken on His nature.

We have taken on our responsibilities as Christians.

You can sum up baptism in these words;

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* Galatians 2v20



### What statement are we making about our sinful nature when we are Baptised?

Romans 6v11-12

Because of this baptism is a great time to make a break with habitual sins and to change our lifestyle.



### A means of Grace.

This phrase means that when we are baptised God effects a blessing on our lives. There is always a blessing for obedience but in baptism God grants us a special grace upon our lives.