

# Water Baptism

1. **Definition:** Baptism: “to dip or immerse” (Greek word: baptism)

2. **REQUIREMENTS: What is required for a person to be baptized?**

**A personal saving faith in God through Jesus:**

A. Acts 8:12 “But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

B. Acts 2:37-38 “ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 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.

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

**Do you need to feel ready in order to be baptized?**

No, the only requirement for baptism is having become a disciple of Jesus through repentance of faith.

3. **WHY get baptized?**

**#1 reason: OBEDIENCE to your new Master**

a. Jesus commanded that his followers “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

b. **EXAMPLES of Obedience in baptism:**

1. Jesus: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John, but John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied. ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” - Matthew 3:13-17

2. The Early Christians: “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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call’ ... Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” -Acts 2:38-41



#### 4. BAPTISM ANALOGIES

##### Baptism is like:

1. **a funeral:** saying goodbye to the old selfish “you” that has died with Christ
2. **a birthday celebration:** joyful recognition of the new “you” recently born of God into His family.
3. **a wedding:** it’s a declaration in front of the world of your love and devotion – and separating yourself from all other loves. It will also bring rejoicing to other members of your spiritual family. The ceremony is a few words of “testimony” from the person being baptized that explains how he/she feels about Jesus.

**SUMMARY:** By being baptized in water you are declaring your BELIEF in Jesus by:

- 1) Showing your love for Him by OBEYING his command.
- 2) Giving public TESTIMONY of your changed life in Christ (death/resurrection).  
You are declaring publicly your identification with Christ and His family.

##### Before being baptized:

Spend time in prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus’ death and resurrection. Commit yourself to living a new, changed life of obedience to your new Lord.

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##### Remember what happened when you were saved:

1. God saw you as if Jesus’ death was your own eternal death, making complete payment for your sins.
  2. Because the demand (penalty of death) was now completely paid, you were not condemned any longer by God’s law! Jesus has set you free from the control of sin in your life.
  3. You are now living in friendship with God.
  4. You are a member in His family.
  5. You have new behavior: Romans 6:8-14
  6. You now have eternal life: living with Jesus forever. Romans 6:22-23
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##### What to BRING to your baptism:

1. A short **testimony** or declaration of your devotion to Jesus. Reflect on what Jesus has done for you and write it out. You can share it with or without notes.
2. Regular, modest **change of clothes**: shirt and pants or long shorts.  
(Women should wear dark-colored shirts)
3. A **towel**. Ask a friend or lifegroup leader to hold it for you during the baptism.
4. Your student **I.D.** (to be able to use the pool).
5. Families and friends are welcome to attend!!!