

What Is Baptism?

Am I saved if I've been baptized already?

Do I have to be baptized to be saved?"



What is baptism? Baptism is not merely "an outward sign", a "profession of faith", or a ritual that gives someone a ticket to heaven.

When someone is to be baptized they are willing to die to themselves and to give up their life of sin to serve Jesus. When they are baptized or immersed into the water, they will in a spiritual sense die to the old life; not necessarily because of the water but by their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ and by a good conscience before God. "...baptism, which now saves you – not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 3:21 "...do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin." Romans 6:3-7

By faith "Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:12 Have you died yet? Are you free from sin? Are you walking in newness of life?

You must believe to be baptized

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be damned." Mark 16:16 "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized," Acts 2:41 "...What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:36-38

"...many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8

You must repent (change the way you think and turn away from sin) to be baptized

"...they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles "what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ..." Acts 2:37-38 "baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins." Matthew 3:6

Believe, repent and get baptized immediately

Around midnight the jailer and his household were baptized (Acts 16:25-33) In the book of Acts in every circumstance when they believed and received the word they were baptized immediately. (Acts 2:41, 8:12,36-38, 9:17,18, 10:44-48, 18:8, 19:1-6)"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16

Baptized for the forgiveness of sins

The water itself does not wash away your sins, but your faith in Jesus and through baptism your sins will be forgiven. "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..." Acts 22:16 "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

Baptized to receive the Holy Spirit

"...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 Sometimes happens before baptism "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word...And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..." Acts 10:44, 48

How will I know when I have received the Holy Spirit?

There was always evidence when people received the Holy Spirit. For how could they know that the Samaritans did not receive the Holy Spirit? "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:14-17

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word..For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.." Acts 10:44, 46 "he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."..And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:2-6

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4

Conclusion: it appears that the evidence for the receiving of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.

Call on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16)

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:9-13

If you don't truly repent before baptism, your baptism will be meaningless and you won't receive the Holy Spirit.

Simon was baptized but not repentant, not forgiven, and he did not receive the Holy Spirit. "And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and beg God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by sin" Acts 8:18-23 Have you already been baptized? Did you repent before baptism? Did you receive the Holy Spirit? Are you still living in sin?

Signs that will follow after a true baptism

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Mark 16:17-18 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. You will begin to live like Jesus.

"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..." 1 Corinthians 12:13. You will surround yourself with other disciples of Jesus and will do life together to the glory of God. "They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

Are these things a reality in your life?

The Command for the followers of Jesus

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 Are you obeying Jesus?