

Why should I be baptized? Selected Scriptures

1. There is only one real baptism

"But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed." Luke 12:50

"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

2. There are two symbolic baptisms

1) The water baptism of Jesus – Matthew 3:13-17

"Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.' Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him."

2) The water baptism of believers – Romans 6:3-4

"Or do you not 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 have a new life."

3. What am I saying by being baptized? (4 things)

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Acts 2:38 "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."

Small Group Questions: Baptism

1. What do you understand baptism to represent?
2. Why do you think people confuse baptism as being a means of salvation? Can you find any places in the bible that indicates salvation is given freely apart from baptism?
3. What did you experience the day you followed Jesus in baptism?
4. If you have not already been baptized, what is preventing you from making that decision?
5. Some of us were baptized as infants and had nothing to do with that decision. Has that been your experience? If so, how do you feel about being baptized once again, this time as a personal decision you have made on your own to follow Jesus?

If you have never been baptized or only baptized as a small child when you had nothing to do with that decision, I want to encourage you to make the call and be baptized next week on May 6 at 6:00 pm.

This week's daily reading plan:

This week, be encouraged as you read about the experiences of many followers in the book of Acts as they believed and were baptized.

- Day 1 - Acts 2:14-40 Peter and the 3000 believers
- Day 2 - Acts 8:26-40 Phillip and the Ethiopian
- Day 3 - Acts 9:1-18 Saul's conversion and baptism
- Day 4 - Acts 10:24-48 The baptism of Cornelius and the large gathering
- Day 5 - Acts 16:16-40 The belief and baptism of the Jailer and His Family