

Baptism

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word... Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord... Acts 10:44–48

After receiving the Holy Spirit (spiritual baptism) you must obey the Lord in water baptism.

“Baptize” is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo*.

- It means to dip (Luke 16:24) or to immerse.
- It carries the idea of introducing or placing a person or thing into a new environment or into a new union with something else so as to alter its condition or its relationship to its previous environment or condition.
- **Mark 10:36–40** - Believers are united with Christ and will share in His suffering.

Christ was baptized - **Matthew 3:1–17**

- Jesus was baptized to validate John the Baptist and his message of the kingdom (1–3).
- Jesus was baptized to identify with humanity (4–6).
- Jesus was baptized to introduce a new work of God (7–12).
- Water baptism formally began Jesus’ ministry as Messiah (13–17).
- Water baptism is part of the testimony of Jesus’ authenticity - **1 John 5:6–13**
- All believers are to be baptized by water just as Christ was as a testimony of faith in Him.

Spiritual baptism unites a believer to Christ and places him into the body of Christ.

- Jesus baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit - **Acts 1:4–5**
- Spirit baptism unites a believer to Christ - **Galatians 3:27**
- The Holy Spirit places a believer into the body of Christ - **1 Corinthians 12:13**
- All believers have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, being united to Christ, and placed into the body of Christ.
- By water baptism, a Christian publicly identifies with Christ and His body.

Christ commands those who will follow Him to be baptized - **Matthew 28:18–20**

- The command to baptize can only be by water because we cannot baptize with the Spirit.
- Salvation is by faith, not by baptism - **Mark 16:16; Ephesians 2:8–10**
- Baptism is not *to obtain* salvation, but is *because* of salvation - **Acts 2:38**
- The gospel does not include baptism - **1 Corinthians 1:14–17; Romans 1:16**
- Baptism is every believer’s first/primary act of obedience after salvation.

Baptism is that act of obedience when a believer in Christ outwardly identifies themselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, in His death, burial, resurrection, and new life - **1 Peter 3:18–22**

- God saved Noah and his family through the judgment waters on the Ark.
- God will save the believer today from the judgment fires in Christ.
- Baptism is symbolic of passing through the judgment of death into the resurrection life in Christ.
- Baptism is an outward picture of an inward reality.
- Baptism symbolizes our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Baptism is identifying with Christ's death - Romans 6:1-3

When Christ died, we died. Spiritual baptism unites us to Jesus in His death.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” Galatians 2:20

We die to our sinful-self and no longer live for our own will, but for God's will.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. Matthew 16:24-25

Baptism is identifying with Christ's burial - Romans 6:4

Baptism should only be by immersion. The very definition of “baptizo” is to immerse or to dip. All the New Testament examples of baptism were done by immersion.

- John baptized in the Jordan River - **Matthew 3:6**
- Christ was baptized and went up out of the water - **Matthew 3:16**
- John baptized where there was much water - **John 3:23**
- Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water - **Acts 8:35-39**
- The Greek word for sprinkling is *raino* and is never used of baptism - **Heb 9:13**

Immersion best pictures the burial of our Lord Jesus Christ in His death.

Baptism is identifying with His resurrection - Romans 6:5

When one comes up out of the water, it is a picture of Christ's resurrection. Baptism is a testimony to the world that Christ has conquered death and is resurrected, and that we expect to be resurrected with Him.

Baptism is identifying with His new life - Romans 6:6-11

Christ died to sin and lives for God. In Christ we also have died to sin and now live for God!

Christians are born again by faith - **John 1:12-13**

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

Baptism is only for those who are able to understand and believe the gospel. An infant should not be baptized because an infant cannot exercise faith nor understand the need for salvation and baptism.

Baptism is only for believers. The pattern in Acts is that, after hearing the gospel, they believed, then the Holy Spirit was given, then they were baptized - **Acts 10:44-48**

Conclusion

The Church is commanded to baptize believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and could be considered the first act of obedience for believers. Baptism should not be administered to infants or as a means of salvation. Baptism by immersion best symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Every believer should be baptized in obedience to Christ, as a testimony of faith in the gospel, and to publicly identify themselves with Christ and His body.