

## *"WHY JESUS ASKS US TO BE BAPTIZED"*

### **A. Command of Water Baptism** (Why should we be baptized?)

1. **Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
2. **Answer:** Because Jesus commanded it. It is part of His authorized way of identifying ourselves as His obedient followers.

### **B. Examples of Water Baptism** (When should we be baptized?)

1. Acts 2:41.
  - a. **Scripture:** 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:37-41)
  - b. **Answer:** As soon as Peter's Jewish listeners heard his message and received it, they were immediately baptized to identify themselves as followers of Jesus and to extricate themselves from the judgment that was to befall the nation of Israel for having murdered Jesus, their Messiah.
2. Acts 8:12-13
  - a. **Scripture:** 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. 13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. (Acts 8:12-13)



5. Acts 18:7-8

- a. **Scripture:** 5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." 7 Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. (Acts 18:5-8)
- b. **Answer:** Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah). So also many of the Corinthians, when they heard, were believing and being baptized.

6. **Conclusion:** The New Testament practice is that, when people had believed in Jesus, they were baptized.

**C. Meaning/Purpose of Water Baptism** (What does baptism mean?)

1. It is a necessary, outward way of **identifying oneself with Jesus Christ**.

- a. Mark 1:8

- 1) **Scripture:** 7 And he [John the Baptist] was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. 8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- 2) **Meaning:** Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit is a much more powerful baptism than John's mere baptism with water.

- b. It is a **public declaration or testimony that one is a Christian**, a follower of Jesus.

- 1) It is like a **jersey or uniform** for a basketball, football, or baseball player.
- 2) The jersey or uniform does not make the participant an athlete. It merely identifies the team to which the athlete belongs. So water baptism does not make us a Christian. It rather publicly identifies us as a member of "Team Jesus."

- 3) Water Baptism is a statement one *has been saved*, and is already a child of God. It is not a way to become saved.
  - a) Titus 3:5. 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)
    - i **Explanation:** God saved us, not on the basis of any good works we have done (including baptism), but He did so by the washing of regeneration (making us alive in Christ) and by the renewing of the Holy Spirit. These He poured out on us richly in Jesus Christ our Savior. The result is that we have been justified (declared righteous) by His grace, and made heirs of the hope of eternal life.
  - b) Ephesians 2:8-10: 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
    - i **Explanation:** We have been saved by grace through faith. Even faith is the gift of God. We were not saved on the basis of any works we have done, for God will have no braggarts in heaven. Having been saved, we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of performing good works. God has prepared these good works from eternity past so that we might walk in (perform) them. So good works are the result of salvation, not the cause of it.
2. Water Baptism is a **sign of identification with Christ** in His **death, burial**, and **resurrection**. Romans 6:3-4
  - a. **Scripture:** 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

- b. **Explanation:** Paul actually speaks here of Jesus baptizing us into His body by means of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 12:13). Spirit Baptism places us in Christ and identifies us with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Water Baptism is a sign and symbol of the superior Spirit Baptism. Mere Water Baptism can only *signify* spiritual realities, not *cause* them. Only *Spirit Baptism* can actually *cause* them.
3. Water Baptism is a **sign of Spirit Baptism** – that the believer has been **placed** by God's Spirit **into the body of Christ**.

  - a. **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:13 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)
    - b. **Explanation:** There is an analogy between the human body and Christ's spiritual body. Just as there are many different members of the human body, but there is only one body, so is the body of Christ. There are many different Christians who comprise the one spiritual body of Christ. We were baptized into Christ's spiritual body by means of the Holy Spirit. It makes no difference what our national identity nor our socio-economic status might be. We were all given the one Holy Spirit to indwell us.
4. Water Baptism provides the believer with a **clear conscience** before God. 1 Peter 3:21

  - a. **Scripture:** 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 3:21)
    - b. **Explanation:** Water Baptism saves us not by washing away the sins of our fleshly human nature, but rather in the sense of a good conscience before God.

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