

## Water Baptism the Bible Way

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women”  
(Acts 8:12).

**W**ATER BAPTISM is the second step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. Repentance must always precede baptism, for they work together to accomplish the forgiveness of sins. In the same way, repentance without baptism is incomplete. God's Word teaches that water baptism is ESSENTIAL for salvation, and gives us very specific requirements as to the MODE (what is DONE) and the FORMULA (what is SAID) of baptism. For the purposes of our study, we are referring to baptism as a “second step,” but it should be remembered that there is only one NEW BIRTH. The Bible commands baptism in the same strong terms that it commands repentance – they are inseparable.

### LET'S ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ...

- **WHO** should be baptized?
- **WHY** should I be baptized?
- **WHEN** should I be baptized?
- **WHAT** happens at baptism?
- **HOW** should I be baptized?

#### 1. Who should be baptized?

- **Every person who has believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and repented of their sins.**

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized ...” (Acts 2:38, 41)

“But when they believed what Philip was saying about God's kingdom and about the name of Jesus Christ, they were all baptized.” (Acts 8:12)

- **Those who are old enough to understand the meaning of repentance.**

At The United Pentecostal Church, we wait until our children are old enough to understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice the baptism of infants, but this custom did not begin until about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism that is taught in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe and repent. Instead of baptizing infants, we dedicate

them to God in a ceremony intended to be a covenant between the parents and God. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until he is old enough to make his own personal decision to obey the Word of God.

- **Those who have been baptized previously in a different way than the baptism specified by the Apostles for the New Testament church.**

“Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?’ [Paul] asked. And they replied, ‘What John the Baptist taught.’ Then Paul pointed out to them that John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin to God and that those receiving his baptism must then go on to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:3-5, TLB)

“On hearing this they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:5, AMP)

## 2. Why should I be baptized?

- **To follow the example set by Jesus Christ.**

“At that time Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan, and came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. ‘I ought to be baptized by you,’ John said, ‘yet you come to me!’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.’ So John agreed.” (Matthew 3:13-15)

- **Because the Lord commanded it.**

“And [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16)

- **Because the Apostles preached it and the New Testament church practiced it.**

“And [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord ...” (Acts 10:48)

“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8)

## 3. When should I be baptized?

- **As soon as you have believed and repented.**

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)

“That same hour the jailer ... and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.” (Acts 16:33)

“And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

- **Before you “get your life straightened out.”**

We don't get good to get God, we get God to get good! If you wait around until you perfect yourself, get everything “fixed up” in your life, or feel worthy enough to be baptized, you will never do it. If you have truly repented, and are ready to leave your sin behind (with God's help), you are ready to be baptized – NOW! There is no reason to delay your obedience.

- **Promptly, without delaying for other people.**

While it is a wonderful thing for family members to witness your baptism, or be baptized together at the same time, it is not wise to delay your obedience to the Word of God on their account. Baptism is a Bible command, not a family tradition.

#### 4. What happens at baptism?

- **My sins are washed away or remitted, accomplishing God's full work of forgiveness.**

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:47)

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

- **My conscience is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.**

“And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21, AMP)

- **My body is buried in a “grave of water,” portraying the death of my old life.**

“Have you forgotten that all of us who were baptized into Jesus Christ were, by that very action, sharing in his death?” (Romans 6:3)

“And when you were baptized, it was the same as being buried with Christ. Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death.” (Col. 2:12)

- **I am born again “of the water,” portraying the birth of my new life.**

“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God ... The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.’” (John 3:3, 5)

- **I am brought into God’s covenant of salvation, portraying the “cutting off” of my fleshly desires.**

“When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, NLT)

“In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). [Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, AMP)

- **I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.**

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, KJV)

“All of you who were baptized ‘into’ Christ have put on the family likeness of Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, PHI)

“Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone.” (Acts 4:12, CEV)

“Jesus is the only One who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through him.” (Acts 4:12, NCV)

- **I apply the burial of Christ to my life, making it effective in me.**

“We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ

was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4, AMP)

“In other words, when we were baptized we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.” (Romans 6:4, JER)

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

- **I demonstrate publicly that I am beginning a new life, committing myself to Christ and His church.**

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church – about three thousand in all. They joined in with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching ...” (Acts 2:41-42, NLT)

“That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles ...” (Acts 2:41-42, TM)

## 5. How should I be baptized?

- **In a PUBLIC SERVICE if at all possible ...**

- **Because it is a testimony to others.**

Your baptism is a public declaration that you have committed your life to Christ and His church. If you choose in advance when you are going to be baptized, we encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend the service. You will also be given a certificate to commemorate your baptism.

- **Because it is an encouragement to you.**

One of the pastors will lead the congregation (your new family!) in praying for you, then he will lower you briefly under the water and speak the name of Jesus over you. When you are raised from the water, you will sense God’s presence in a special way as everyone rejoices with you. Take advantage of this time to worship the Lord fervently – many people receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost as they rise from their “watery grave!”

- **By being IMMERSED in water ...**

- **Because Jesus was baptized by immersion.**

“After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water ...” (Matthew 3:16)

- **Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

“He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. After they had come out of the water ...” (Acts 8:38-39)

- **Because that’s precisely what the word baptism means.**

The Greek word “**baptizo**” literally means “to immerse or submerge under water.” It also has the significance of washing or cleansing oneself.

- **Because it is the best portrayal of a burial and resurrection.**

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” (Rom. 6:4)

- **In the NAME of the Lord Jesus Christ ...**

- **Because every baptism in the book of Acts was performed in Jesus’ name.**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST:** “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

**THE SAMARITANS:** “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)” (Acts 8:15-16)

**THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS:** “And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” (Acts 10:48)

**THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN:** “When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:5)

**PAUL’S BAPTISM:** “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, **calling on the name of the Lord.**” (Acts 22:16)

- **Because the epistles conclusively teach baptism in the name of Jesus.**

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27)

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Romans 6:3)

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 1:12)

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17)

- **Because Jesus is the only name that has the power to save us.**

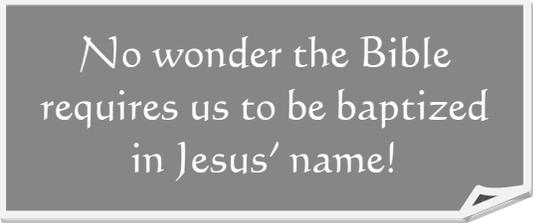
“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- **Because Jesus is Almighty God!**

The most important reason to be baptized in the name of Jesus is that He is God! The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Father (Isaiah 9:6), the Son (Matthew 1:21), and the Holy Ghost (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily (Colossians 2:9), and the name of Jesus represents all the power and authority of God (Matthew 28:18, Acts 4:7,10).



No wonder the Bible  
requires us to be baptized  
in Jesus' name!

<b>BAPTIZED “IN THE NAME”</b>	
<i>“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them <b>in the name</b> of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)</i>	
<i>“I am come <b>in my Father’s name</b> ...” (John 5:43)</i>	<b>The Name of the Father is ...</b>
<i>“And she shall bring forth <b>a son</b>, and thou shalt call <b>his name Jesus</b> ...” (Matthew 1:21)</i>	<b>The Name of the Son is ...</b>
<i>“But the Comforter, which is <b>the Holy Ghost</b>, whom <b>the Father will send in my name</b> ...” (John 14:26)</i>	<b>The Name of the Holy Ghost is ...</b>
<i>“For <b>in him</b> dwelleth <b>all the fulness of the Godhead</b> bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is <b>the head of all principality and power</b> ... <b>Buried with him in baptism</b> ...” (Colossians 2:9-10, 12)</i>	

JESUS

**Study Questions**

1. Write out one (1) verse (with reference) that supports each of the following statements:
  - 1) The Name of the Holy Ghost is JESUS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) The Name of the Father is JESUS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) The Name of the Son is JESUS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. List the five (5) groups of people whose baptisms are recorded in the book of Acts. Use Scripture to support the claim they were all baptized in the Name of Jesus.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. List (with Scripture reference) the three (3) types of people who should be baptized.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give three (3) reasons (with Scripture reference) why a person should be baptized.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List and briefly explain three (3) statements about when a person should be baptized. Support with Scripture if possible.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Given the following Scripture references, write a brief explanation about what happens at baptism according to each verse.

- 1) Acts 2:41-42 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Acts 22:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Colossians 2:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Romans 6:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Galatians 3:27 \_\_\_\_\_

6) 1 Peter 3:21 \_\_\_\_\_

7) Romans 6:3 \_\_\_\_\_

8) John 3:3,5 \_\_\_\_\_

7. List two (2) reasons it is good to be baptized in a public service.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

8. List four (4) reasons why baptism should be done by immersion in water. Support with Scripture if possible.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Write out four (4) verses (with reference) that support the following statement:

“Baptism should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because the epistles conclusively teach baptism in the name of Jesus.”

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

“... be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .”  
(Acts 2:38)