

out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

What happens after baptism? As Spirit-begotten Christians, we begin to manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as mentioned in: [Galatians 5:22-23](#). It is crucial that we remain faithful to God. We begin to grow in spiritual character; and build up, strengthen and maintain the bond in our intimate relationship with God through prayer, bible study and fasting. Every moment, you will become more conscious of the awesome presence of God in your life.

Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; true, heartfelt repentance; baptism; obedience to God and remaining loyal to Him are crucial steps for our salvation. When Jesus Christ returns, the firstfruits of God's salvation will be born of God and inherit the Kingdom of God, becoming members of the divine family of God!

Scriptural References:

Matthew 3:1-17
Matthew 28:18-20
Mark 1:1-11
Mark 16:15-18
Luke 3:1-18
Luke 7:29-30
John 1:19-34
John 3:22-36
John 4:1-2
Acts 1:4-5
Acts 2:38-41
Acts 4:12
Acts 8:9-40
Acts 9:17-19
Acts 10
Acts 11:15-18
Acts 16:13-15,29-34
Acts 18:7-8,24-26
Acts 19:1-7
Acts 22:14-16
Romans 6:1-14
2 Corinthians 5:17
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 3:27
Galatians 5:16-25
Ephesians 4:5-6
Colossians 2:9-12
Hebrews 7:26
1 John 2:3-6

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Baptism Requirement For Salvation?



Is Baptism commanded in the Bible? If so, what does the Bible teach about Baptism and what is the biblical method? When, how and why are we baptized? Is it crucial to our salvation?

What is baptism? Water baptism is an ordinance of Jesus to symbolically express our faith in, and acceptance of Him as our personal Lord and Savior - His death, burial and resurrection. It is also a symbolic expression of our repentance from sin, and determination to "bury" and completely and permanently renounce the old sinful life; and passion to begin a new life in Christ, and allow Christ to live in us by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Baptism pictures the washing and cleansing of past sins. Baptism is our outward ceremony demonstrating our serious willingness to surrender our lives to God, and walk in newness of life, with complete devotion, dedication and commitment to God, and obedience to His commandments. We acknowledge the supremacy and authority of God, and surrender to His will, plan and purpose for our lives.

Why baptism? Baptism is a commanded step in our salvation. In the 'Great Commission' Jesus specifically mentioned to: make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything He has commanded. God's Church is to fulfill the 'Great Commission' up until the return of Jesus Christ. This command was not just for the apostles at that time. Ministers today who do not obey Jesus' command are a stumbling block to one's salvation.

Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Those who want to become Spirit-begotten Christians must understand that repentance is accompanied by baptism for the forgiveness (remission) of sins, and through prayer, and the laying on of hands, we will receive God's Holy Spirit. God begets a repentant, baptized person with His Spirit. There were, however, exceptional cases where believers received the Holy Spirit before baptism. For example, the first Gentiles in the New Testament era, whom God called and converted, were Cornelius, a very devout and God-fearing Italian and his family. The reason why God gave them His Spirit, prior to baptism, was as a special sign to prove to the apostles that salvation was open to the Gentiles - *Acts 10*.

Acts 2:36-41 - "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Scripture clearly mentions whoever believes and is baptized will be saved:

Mark 16:15-16 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, not because He was a sinner (as He lived a perfect sinless life), but to set an example for us to follow. (*Hebrews 7:26*).

When to be baptized? Baptism is a serious commitment and requires absolute surrender to God. There are scriptures where believers were baptized immediately upon hearing and believing the preaching of the true gospel "good news," accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and true, heartfelt repentance. There are no other pre-requisites.

Acts 2:41 - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:12 - But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:34-37 - The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

Acts 16:13-15 - On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named

Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Acts 16:29-34 - The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Acts 18:8 - Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

Since baptism is a serious commitment to God and one must be mature enough to personally accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, repent, and commit and surrender his or her life to God, and understand the importance and significance of baptism, only mature adults must be baptized. If one did not fully meet the requirements of baptism, then he must seriously consider re-baptism.

Where to be baptized? The only method of baptism practiced by the New Testament Church of God was immersion. Therefore, baptism requires much water.

Matthew 3:13 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

John 3:23 - Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

How to be baptized? Firstly, we are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, not into a particular denomination, because salvation is only in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

The word "baptize" is derived from the Greek word *baptizo* which means "to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet)." *Baptizo* does not mean "sprinkle" or "pour." Full immersion is the biblical method (sprinkling or pouring is not). Scriptures mention that there was much water when people were baptized. There is a symbolism behind immersion. Just as Christ died for the forgiveness of our sins and was buried, so we, through baptism, are immersed into a watery "grave" - going down under the water is symbolic of the death and burial of the old self with his old sinful life and crucifixion of the carnal nature (those who belong to Christ have crucified the carnal nature with its worldly passions and desires); and as Christ, by God's mighty power, was resurrected from the grave, we too, rise up out of the watery "grave" to live a newly transformed life in Christ, as a new creation. Coming up out of the water symbolizes our new life with Christ, where we put on the new self created to be like Christ in true righteousness and holiness. We are alive in Christ, therefore we are slaves of God, (no longer slaves to sin).

Romans 6:3-6 - Or don't you 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 live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Jesus' baptism was by immersion:

Matthew 3:16-17 - 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. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

When Philip baptized the eunuch they both went into the water:

Acts 8:38-39 - And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up