



## Baptism at Northside

### **What is the significance of baptism?**

Have you ever thought about getting baptized but have too many questions still unanswered? You're not alone. Many people in the Bible also had questions about what it was, why it was important, or even if it was something they should do. Hopefully, this helps!

### **Why should I consider getting baptized?**

#### Following Christ:

In order to understand the reason for being water baptized, it is important to carefully consider what the Bible says about it: Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow. At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, came down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life." Mark 1:9 MSG

#### An act of obedience:

Water baptism is an act of faith-filled obedience to Jesus.

"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." Matthew 28:19-20

Baptism is something Jesus modeled for us and told us to do. Sometimes people like to ask if Baptism is required for salvation, but Francis Chan helps us understand that this could be the wrong question. The right question might be... why would you not?

#### A public declaration:

Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.

Then he said, "Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the message of God's good news to one and all. Whoever believes and is baptized is saved; whoever refuses to believe is damned." Mark 16:16 MSG

In Matthew 13 and in Mark 1, Jesus was baptized publically and in the process, there was a public declaration both in the act of baptism but also in a miracle that God did that helped people understand the reality of who Jesus really is.

Baptism is an outward symbol of something that is happening inside of us. The desire and commitment to walk with God for the rest of our days.

### **What is the meaning and significance of baptism?**

#### A move from death to life:

Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross, His burial in the tomb and His resurrection from the dead.

"Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive – right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross." Colossians 2:12-14 MSG

#### A brand-new life:

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in a "new life". In a lot of ways, baptism reminds me of a wedding ring.

- An outward sign of an inward commitment that's intended to last a lifetime.
- It communicates something about you.
- It communicates something about your future.
- It communicates something to others.

If I have trusted Christ to save me from sin, and He is the lord and joy of my life, then I'll want everyone to know about it. So baptism is a statement to everyone who sees it that I have trusted Christ for my salvation and I'm committed to living for Him.

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

"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."  
Romans 6:4

*Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one!* Baptism does not "save" you; only your faith in Christ does that.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

#### A new family:

Baptism also connects us to the "body of Christ" – his people. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey. There is unity found within baptism.

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body." 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

#### **How are we to be baptized?**

As per the example of Jesus – by being immersed in water. The word "baptism" comes from the Greek word which means "to immerse or dip underwater".

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion underwater. The book of Acts shows us that this was the norm for every believer.

"Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38,39

## Who should be baptized?

Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). Four things we need for baptism...

1. Water
2. Belief in Jesus.
3. A repentant heart.
4. The willful choice to follow Jesus as the Lord of your life.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized.” Acts 2:41

“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 8:12

We believe in baptizing children when they are old enough to understand what it means and make a personal declaration of belief.

## When are we to be baptized?

Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, he can be and is encouraged to be baptized. Some people feel like they have to have it all together to be baptized, which is not what you see in scripture. Rather, it is an outward sign of a new direction... a new intention... a new life that we have in Jesus.

“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?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-39

Questions to consider before Baptism:

1. Do you believe that Jesus is who He says He is? That He is the son of God, the hope of the world, the way, the truth, and the life?
2. Have you come to the place of putting your faith in Him?
3. Is it your desire to publicly declare Him as your Lord and Savior?