

To baptize: means to Immerse: Fully cover with water, submerge; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet);

As we look at Jesus baptism we learn a lot. As disciples we follow our teachers pattern. Jesus baptism was not out of sin, there was no repentance, it was to fulfill all righteousness. **He modeled perfect faith towards God the Father as a Son.**

Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to **fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Baptism has the approval of all 3 members of the Godhead

Matthew 28:19 *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,*

In **Matthew 3:13-17** He would fulfill the will of the Father and though He was without sin, Jesus would model perfect obedience.

1. **God the Father spoke and made the verbal proclamation** in **Matthew 3:17** "*This is my son, whom I love: with Him I am well pleased*" Jesus heard these words Prior to ministry, teaching us sonship precedes anything we will ever do for God. There is a divine approval God wants to release upon all of His sons and daughters. Identity, sonship precedes authority and ministry.
2. **The Spirit of God descended {Came down} from heaven, landed on Him and remained (John 1:32).** During His baptism.
3. **His earthly ministry began**

Baptism enables us to makes the bold proclamation **I was dead to sin, I am alive in Christ Jesus!** **Colossians 2:13** (NKJV) *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,*

We have to die if we want to live.

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ 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.

- **Baptism is a picture of death.** *We go under the water covered in the filth and destruction of sin and we come up alive, covered in His righteousness.*
 - *We leave the old man behind and arise a new creation.*
 - **Baptism is an act of obedience that states “I believe in and align my life with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and I receive His finished work personally.”**
 - **There is a line drawn in the sand. I never have to go backwards but I fully enter into new life.**
1. I am identifying with Jesus Christ
 2. I am given life here and now by the power of His resurrection.
 3. I am looking forward to the day when I will have a bodily resurrection and will spend eternity in heaven! It's a prophetic act looking to the future.
- **We are dead to our sinful nature**, we leave it behind as we are washed, we are now alive in Jesus Christ with a new nature that is able to love and serve Him.
 - **Baptism does not save you! You are saved by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8).** It is however an act of obedience and faithfulness that is necessary for every believer to enter into.
 - **You have moved from death to life.** *You are no longer under the law and the penalty of the law which is death/hell into a place of being under the Lord's grace and favor*
 - **Baptism is commanded, not suggested. Repent and be baptized was the cry of the Apostles to those who wanted to enter this new life in Christ. (Acts 2:38)**

Requirements for Christian baptism. Scripturally, There was never a large separation in time from belief to baptism, it was immediate . **I believe so I will move forward in obedience.** The great commission is discipleship! **Baptism is an essential part of the great commission.**

Matthew 28:19-20-⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

- **Repent!!** *Acts 2:37-38- Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*
- **Believe!** *Mark 16:15-And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.¹⁶ He who **believes and is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

Scriptural pattern of immediately getting baptized.

1. *Acts 2:41-3000* were baptized after hearing the Gospel and gladly receiving the Word.
 2. Ethiopian Eunuch *Acts 8:36-38*³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?”³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.
 3. *Acts 10:48* The household of Cornelius were baptized the same day they believed.
 4. *Acts 16:33*-The Philippian Jailer and his family believed and were immediately baptized.
- Baptized into Christ, not a church or a denomination (Gal. 3:27)
 - Effective only through faith (Col. 2:12)
 - New life empowered by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 1:4)
 - **Everyone in the New Testament who was saved was also baptized** with the exception of the sinner on the cross.

Obedience always brings blessing. Many get stuck as they begin to follow Jesus Christ because they are not obedient to His word. We repent out of dead works and enter into faith toward God being obedient fully to His word. Don't let the enemy shame you out of what the Father has for you. You are saved by grace through faith and this is how you enter the water of baptism. Not by your own merit but in the righteousness of Christ.

Baptism is:

- An act of faithful obedience

- A sacred event that has kingdom impact in our spirit, soul and flesh
- An outward sign of what God has done in your heart.
- A commitment to faith and discipleship
- Baptism restores us to our true identity as a son/daughter of God
- I am baptized into a relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- A belief in Jesus resurrection as well as our own future resurrection
- **If you were baptized before you received Jesus you need to be baptized now. The command is repent and be baptized.** Infant baptism was your parents choice not yours.

Baptism not only has benefit in obedience, it unlocks something in the invisible realm for us.

That unlocking not only takes place when you are baptized but is a fresh resource that may be re-appropriated throughout your life.

Jesus opened a doorway for a dynamic to be released at baptism. Water baptism is not intended to be a mere ritual.

- **The Lord is calling us to a pathway of obedience as disciples.** There are things He wants to unfold and release to you. Water baptism opens the way to things that will never happen in your life until you take that pathway to obedience.

Mark 1:10 (NKJV) And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

- The parting of the heavens that it mentions has to do with not an opening of a space in the sky but with a rending, a ripping open (veil torn in two) of the invisible realm for something to break through. The disciple of Jesus Christ is given an availability to things that are supernatural. We realize as we enter into this sacred obedience and publicly make the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord , we are enabled **to-touch the things of heaven.** Through Christ Jesus the heavens have been ripped open.
- **Just as the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and rested upon His life, the Father wants to do the same for us. The Spirit comes and rests upon us for the purpose of ministry and mission.** Every one of us have a ministry to live out—It takes the power of the Holy Spirit for that to occur. The Lord wants to open up that resource to us at special dimensions that are illustrated at what happened to Him at baptism. Jesus ministry took place following His own baptism.
- **Sacraments are sacred events in which we can experience the deep fellowship of the Holy Spirit through our participating in what is made available through Jesus**

Christ. We understand that these activities of divine grace must be filled with faith and not done out of vain repetition. *These acts of loving obedience can open up our hearts and minds to a deep place of enjoying the Lord in all His fullness.*

There's something about having come to a specific time and place of yieldedness to God that we were meant to remember. A moment in time that I can look back to the rest of my life and say that was my turning point, that is recorded in His book.

God said of His Son, You are My Son in whom I am well pleased. Jesus entered into the waters to fulfill all righteousness and we are to follow His pattern as disciples. When we come from the waters of baptism, God is making a statement that is equally true—**In the eyes of heaven, because of my having put my faith in Jesus Christ, my Savior, and having obeyed His call to me to come to the waters of baptism, the Father says, through the Cross, where My Son died, I have cut away the record of any remembrance of sin against you! *This is my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased.***

Home group questions

1. Share the testimony of your baptism? What did it mean for you?
2. Discuss this statement. The Great Commission is discipleship and baptism is an essential as a disciple.
3. Have we minimized the power in the sacrament of baptism? If we came in with greater faith to experience a ripping open of the heavens over our life do you believe we would experience more?
4. Discuss-identity must precede authority. Jesus heard the words “this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” prior to His earthly ministry.
5. Who in your life can you encourage to take the step of faith and enter the water of baptism?