

# The Potter's House: Baptism

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Are you tired of hurting your loved ones and wounding your conscience? Do you live in constant regret for your past mistakes? Have you ever wished you could take a bath and come out clean inside and out? Do you desire to have a new life?

Here is good news for you. Follow with me as we explore the **Doorway to a new life**.

## What is baptism?

In the Bible, baptism is a symbol of commitment to Jesus. It is a sign of allegiance to him. Christ urgently to his disciples under these words, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."* Matt 28:19, 20

Jesus commissioned His disciples to instruct people in the great principles of the Christian life and gave them authority to baptize men and women in his name.

## How important is Baptism?

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*  
Mark 16:16

Jesus considered baptism so vital that He was baptized as an example for us. *"And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan."* Mark 1:9

## What are the conditions God desires His children to meet before Baptism?

The Bible lays down three steps for anyone contemplating for this step. Jesus said, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."* Matt 28:19, 20

Since Baptism is an outward witness of the conversion, it is immediately clear why Jesus commanded that all should be taught before qualifying for that sacred rite. Without an understanding of the plan of salvation, none could participate in the bountiful provisions. Although learning is a lifelong process and one should never wait until he or she feels that he or she has grasped all the truth before baptism, it is necessary to understand basic scriptural truths before making such a significant decision. Christ stipulated that every candidate should be instructed in his doctrines before entering the water of baptism. No sins could be forgiven and no conversion effected without personal faith on the part of the candidate. Otherwise the physical act of baptism would be an empty mechanical ritual.

The inspired Peter on the day of Pentecost gave support to the words of Jesus by adding another prerequisite for baptism. He said, *"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*

Repentance is a deep sorrow for sin. It includes a determined desire to turn from those things that violate God’s will and sadden HIS heart

*“And as they went on [their] way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, [here is] water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” Acts 8:36, 37*

Such belief is more than simply an intelligence assent to a particular creed. It a heart commitment to Jesus and His word, a total conviction that He is the Saviour who alone can forgive sin and give victory in your life.

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

*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6: 3, 4.*

Since various churches use several methods of Baptism today, what does the Bible teach regarding how an individual is to be baptized? Does it make a difference whether an individual is sprinkled, poured, dipped or immersed?

- a. How many methods of Baptism does the Bible recognize?

*“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Ephesians 4:5*

- b. How was Jesus baptized?

*“And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.” Mark 1:9, 10.*

It is quite obvious that Jesus was fully immersed by John in the Jordan River.

- c. How did John the Baptist baptize?

*“And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.” John 3:23.*

- d. How did Philip baptize the Ethiopian eunuch?

*“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” Acts 8:38.*

To correctly symbolize a death to the old person of sin, burial with Christ and a resurrection in Christ to a new life, the candidate must enter into the water, be completely covered by water, and then rise from water. Therefore, baptism by immersion is the only biblical method.

When Paul was miraculously converted on the Damascus road, Christ led him to Ananias, a representative of his church. Ananias urgently appealed to Paul by saying, *“And now why*

*tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*  
Acts 22: 16.

Is that the appeal that the Holy Spirit is pressing upon your heart this very moment? You love the lord and recognize that He died for your sins. By faith, you have accepted His atoning death in your behalf. The transforming grace of Jesus has brought peace and assurance into your life for the first time. If all this is true you need to make the most important decision in your life. The spirit inquires, “WHY TARRIEST THOU? ARISE, AND BE BAPTIZED.”

Have you been baptized by immersion? Have you become a part of Christ’s last day church? Why not make that decision now?

***My decision: loving Jesus completely, I desire to publicly testify to my faith in Him. I choose to follow the example of my Lord in the Bible baptism by immersion.***