

BAPTISM: Following through with your faith

Baptism is the way Christians publicly announce their faith: "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven" **Matt 10:32**

Who is baptized?

- If you have already believed by trusting Jesus as Savior (**Acts 2:37-38**)
- If you understand baptism is a picture of what Christ has already done in your life
- If you are not ashamed to publicly follow Jesus' example
- If you understand you should be (**Acts 2:37-38**), but belief is what saves (**Acts 16:30-33**)

Why should I be baptized?

- Jesus said: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." **Matt 28:19**
- It is your first step of obedience. Jesus did it (**Mark 1:9**), so do His followers (**Acts 2:41; 8:38**).
- It's a picture of dying to your old way of life and being born-again, raised to a new life.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." **Rom 6:4**

- Shows you received Christ: "So those who received his word were baptized..." **Acts 2:41**

How is baptism done?

- Going down into water: **Acts 8:38; John 3:23**
- Being "buried" in the water and then raised from it: **Rom 6:4; Col 2:12**
- Coming out of the water: **Mark 1:10; Acts 8:39**

The Greek verb for baptism βαπτίζω (baptizō) means "to immerse."

Though not a "must" for salvation (**Acts 16:30-33**), when done properly, baptism is by immersion.

Where is baptism done?

Fellow Christians should publicly baptize believers in front of other Christians. Baptism can happen at any public place when believers come together. So, a worship service is the perfect place to be baptized.

When is baptism done?

As is the case in the New Testament, people should follow-through with baptism as soon as they have trusted Jesus as their savior: **Acts 2:41; 8:36; 16:14-15, 33**

Because it's done after someone becomes a believer, we call it called Believer's baptism.

No one can make this decision for you. Though many rituals are meaningful for parents of children, baptism is only something believers can decide to do themselves. After you place your trust in Jesus, then be baptized.

What's stopping you?

Philip shared Christ with a man from Ethiopia in **Acts 8:36**. After the man accepted the Lord he wanted to stop and be baptized right away. If you've accepted Jesus then you should ask yourself the very same question the Ethiopian asked "What prevents me from being baptized?" Is there any reason you wouldn't?

When I'm baptized, does that make me a member of your church?

Baptism is a prerequisite for membership, but you do not need to join the church to be baptized.

Do I need to be baptized again?

Believers are only asked to be baptized once. As long as you've been biblically baptized (that is, after you trust in Jesus, by immersion, in front of fellow believers, by fellow believers, and you understood what it meant) you would not need to be baptized again. However, the disciples of Apollos in **Acts 19:1-7** were baptized again. So, if you're not sure, baptism makes a great "fresh start."

Are you ready? We'd love to baptize you to publicly proclaim that you are not ashamed of the gospel!!
For more info, simply email: info@shilohgarner.org or give us a call at **919-553-3319**