

Common Questions

1) **What about “sprinkling” (a form of baptism practiced by some)?**

Scripture is very clear about immersion in water being the common Biblical way. While the method is important, we must remember that the most important factor is whether or not the person has received Jesus as their Savior.

2) **What should I do if I was baptized as an infant or small child?**

Acts 2:38 says, “repent... and be baptized”. Baptism is to follow true repentance. Since it is impossible for infants & most small children to understand the meaning of true repentance, we recommend you to be baptized again as an adult. Many find this to be very fulfilling in their Christian life.

3) **Now that I've re-dedicated my life to Christ, should I be baptized again?**

When a person re-dedicates their life to Christ, sometimes a fresh water baptism experienced is desired. This does not necessarily negate the former experience of Salvation, but it does signify a new beginning. At JOY we are open to people being water baptized when God brings an incredible change in their life.

*If you have other questions,
please feel free to ask.*

Preparing for Water Baptism

- 1) Wear clothes that cannot be seen through when wet. Please no light colored T-shirts. Shorts are permissible.
- 2) Bring a change of clothes, a towel and anything else you will need to get dressed.
- 3) Be sure to let family members & friends know about your Baptism. They may want to attend.
- 4) You may take pictures and video if you would like. We professionally video most of our Water Baptisms and give each person a DVD. We recommend that you take some personal video or photos just in case we are unable to video/photo your baptism.

Celebrate!!!

Be sure and celebrate your Water Baptism. You may want to have a dinner with family or friends or do something you enjoy to celebrate this important time. Also, be sure and mark the day by writing it in the front of your Bible or on your calendar. This will help you remember to celebrate this day in the years to come.

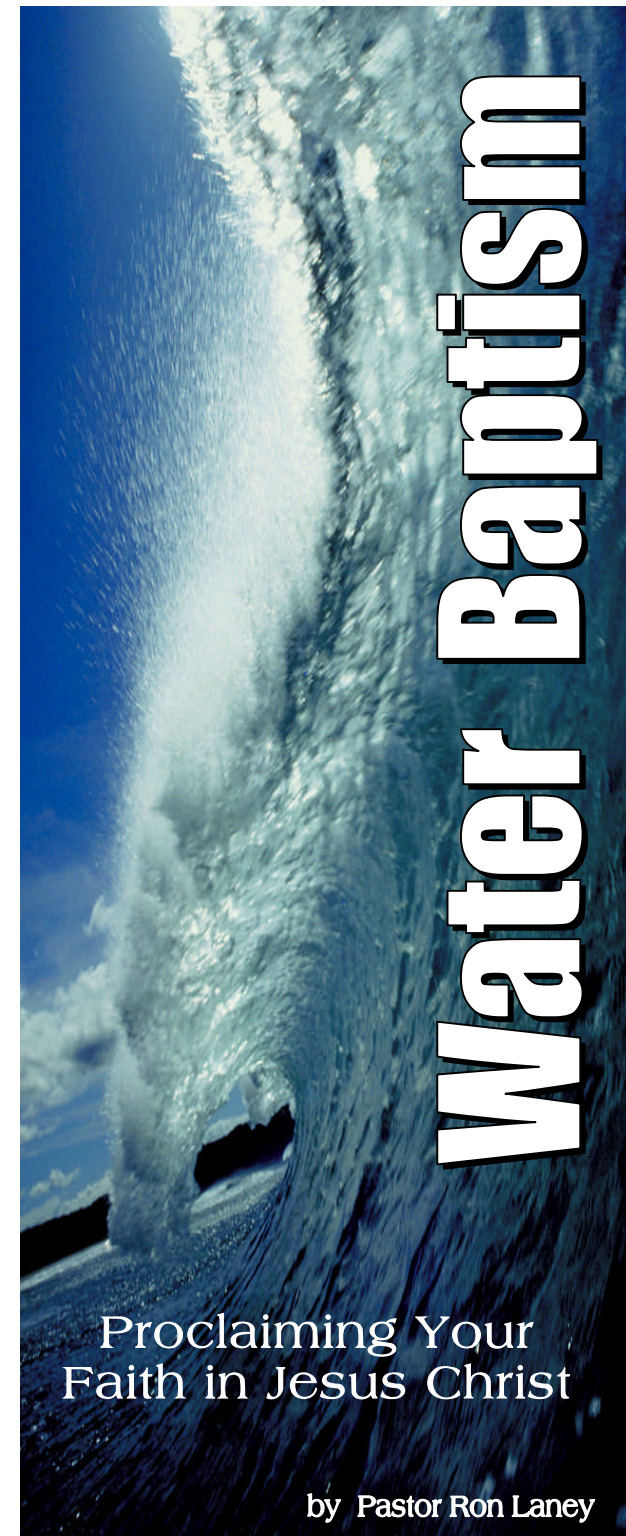


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by Pastor Ron Laney

What is Water Baptism?

**BAPTIZE (bap tīz) =
TO IMMERSE OR TO DIP**

Water baptism is a very meaningful act in the life of a believer. Faith in Christ saves us and water baptism publicly announces our commit to Christ. When you are baptized in water, you are giving an outward sign of your inward change. Every believer needs to be publicly baptized in water.

4 Insights About Water Baptism:

1) IT IS A PUBLIC CONFESSION OF ALLEGIANCE TO CHRIST.

When you are baptized in water, you are expressing the sincerity of your faith in Jesus Christ. It is a public announcement of the change Jesus brought into your life the moment you repented of your sins and received His forgiveness. A public statement of your faith is essential to building a strong, healthy Christian life.

Matthew 10:32-33

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."



2) IT IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMAND OF CHRIST.

Jesus commands all of His disciples to be baptized in water.

Matthew 28:19-20

"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, 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.



3) IT IS A POINT OF IDENTIFICATION WITH THE DEATH, BURIAL & RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

Water Baptism is more than a ceremony or ritual. It literally is a supernatural turning point. This act is full of symbolism and spiritual meaning.

Romans 6:4

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

The water symbolizes the burial ground for our old way of life. This baptism is literally a funeral for your flesh. As we are raised out of the water, we are signifying our new life in Christ. This landmark experience will give you much needed strength in your walk with God.



4) YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Matthew 3:13-17, gives us the story of Jesus' water baptism experience. As you read this account, pay close attention to the supernatural events that took place.

- A) Heaven was opened to Him
- B) He saw the Spirit of God
- C) The Spirit rested on Him
- D) The Father spoke & affirmed Him

As you act in simple obedience to the commands of Christ, we are believing God to do these supernatural things in your life.



For further growth in your Christian life, do some study about the *Baptism with the Holy Spirit*:

John 20:17-23; Acts 1 & 2; Acts 8:14-25;
Acts 9:10-20; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7;
Ephesians 5:15-21; 1 Corinthians 12, 13 & 14



If you need to be baptized in water, please see Pastor Ron or contact one of the Elders of The Church of Joy.