

To receive Jesus into your heart and follow Him is a one time decision, but it is also a lifetime journey. No matter how long you have been a Christian, there is always a next step to follow in our walk with Jesus. If you have already asked Jesus into your life, and have not yet been baptized, then baptism is your next step.

Things You Need To Know About Baptism.

Baptism is a public announcement.

When you wear a team “t” shirt or jersey indentifying your favorite team and player on it, give others around you an idea of who you follow. Baptism is the same thing. In **Galatians 3:27** it reads, *“for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”* We are announcing to the world that we belong to Jesus and we are on His team.

Baptism is about being called.

Jesus said, *“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...” (Matthew 28:19) You are called to spread the “Good News”. The first way we can do this after receiving Jesus into your heart is to demonstrate our salvation through the outward action of baptism. Think about when we find something that helps and improves our lives. We want to tell everyone. We want to show them how it will benefit them. That’s what baptism does. You are letting everyone around you know how important Jesus is in their lives. That they need Him.

Baptism doesn’t give you salvation. It proclaims your salvation.

The apostle Peter preached to a crowd of thousands. About 3,000 people were saved in one day. The first thing Peter told them to do after receiving salvation through Jesus Christ, was get baptized. It’s not enough to just to receive Jesus Christ, but you must also demonstrate your new life through action. In **Acts 2:38** it reads *“And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* It becomes a two step process. First, it is about

opening our hearts to Jesus Christ. Second, it is about allowing the Holy Spirit to enter that open heart to start a transformation process in your life. Baptism is a public proclamation of Spirit to enter that open heart to start a transformation process in your life. Baptism is a public proclamation of the spiritual transformation that occurs when you commit to following Jesus.

Baptism is a powerful reminder.

In **2 Corinthians 5:17** it reads, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* It is through baptism, we remember how Jesus saved us. You are lowered in the water demonstrating as Christ died and was buried, you to die to self. Coming out of the water demonstrates as Christ rose from the dead, you have risen from the death of your sin, a new creation, knowing through faith that Jesus saved you from death and gives you eternal life.

Every baptism is a celebration, and an opportunity to share Jesus' story.

Are you ready to celebrate?