

BAPTISM

What's water got to do with it?

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The word Baptize comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which means ***“to plunge, dip, or immerse.”*** From the beginning of the New Testament, we see John the Baptist baptizing people in the Jordan River. At this time, going under the water was a public acknowledgement that they were sinners and desired to repent from those sins (Matthew 3:1-12).

Even though Jesus had no need to repent, he came to be baptized by John to set an example for us to follow, and as he said, *“to fulfill all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15). In his baptism, the perfect man identified himself with our sinful humanity, so that all our sins could be forgiven through him.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM TODAY?

After Jesus' sacrificial death, baptism took on an added significance for the church as our immersion into the water symbolizes Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Just as Jesus identified himself with humanity, baptism now identifies us with his sacrifice and symbolizes our dying to sin and being raised to new life with him. It represents union with him and is a witness to the world that we have stepped into eternal living now.

Baptism is a public profession of an inner faith.

“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.” — Romans 6:4, ESV

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. **Jesus' Example.** *“In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”* —Mark 1:9, ESV
2. **Jesus' Command.** Baptism is an act of obedience. In what is known as the Great Commission, Jesus commanded that everyone who follows him should be baptized. He said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
—Jesus, Matthew 28:19-20, ESV
3. **As a symbol of New Birth and a New Identity with Christ and the Church.** *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
—Galatians 3:27-28, ESV

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

“So those who received his word were baptized...”
—Acts 2:41, ESV

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed! (see Acts 8:35-38).

CAN BAPTISM SAVE ME?

No! While Scripture strongly ties baptism to salvation, meaning it's not something we just decide if we want to do, it is also clear that salvation comes through grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he made on our behalf.

Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church, ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”***

—Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV

He also tells them in the very next verse, ***“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”***

—Ephesians 2:10, ESV

Baptism does not save you, but it is an act of obedience that is not optional for believers. It is one of the first of these good works God invites us into after being born again in salvation.

METHOD OF BAPTISM

Hillside practices “believer’s baptism,” meaning we are baptized after believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior and trusting in him for our salvation.

We practice full immersion into the water as we believe is best symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Note on immersion: There are special cases in which different methods must be used other than immersion (i.e., water availability, physical handicap, etc.). If someone was baptized before coming to Hillside with some other method, we would only re-baptize them if they were not believers when they were baptized.

Note on Infant Baptism: Infant baptism is not explicitly referenced anywhere in Scripture. We will dedicate our babies and pray for them, but we only baptize believers who have put their faith in Jesus.

QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE READY TO BE BAPTIZED

Can you answer “yes” to the following questions?

- Do you believe you are a sinner separated from God? (Romans 3:23)
- Do you believe that your sins deserve punishment and that the punishment for your sin is death? (Romans 6:23)
- Do you believe that there is nothing you can do to earn salvation? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Do you believe that God loved you so much that he sent his Son to the cross for you and there took your punishment? (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
- Have you put your trust in Christ? (Romans 10:9-10)
- With all your heart, do you intend to walk with Christ all your life? (Colossians 1:10)

YOUR BAPTISM DAY

Invite friends and family. We strongly encourage you to invite friends and family to attend your baptism. It is a great opportunity for you to share what Christ has done in your life and share the gospel with lost friends and family.

What should I wear? Everyone will be provided a Hillside baptism shirt to wear. Women should wear shorts and your baptism t-shirt along with a swimsuit underneath. Men may wear a swimsuit and your baptism t-shirt. Remember to bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.

Will I have to say anything? Not on the day of the baptism. We may grab a few testimonies to video for the baptism day, but you won’t need to say anything in the water.

Then what? Once you have been baptized you may leave the water, go back stage and change, then you can join the rest of the service. We will mail you a certificate of baptism the following week and will email you a link to your baptism video in a month.