

Water Baptism

Baptism is the Sacred act of the Believer as he/she begins his/her pure life of obedience to the commandments of Jesus.

Repentance connection

Baptism is first introduced in the New Testament by the ministry of **John the Baptist** as he began His ministry in the wilderness of Judea saying:

- ✠ "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" [Matthew 3:2, Mark 1:4]
- ✠ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, **confessing their sins**. [Matthew 3:5-6, Mark 1:5]
- ✠ And he (John the Baptist) went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a **baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**. [Luke 3:3, Acts 13:14-41, 19:1-7]

John's testimony was:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." [Matthew 3:11-12, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:16]

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist as our example **to fulfill all righteousness**. [Matthew 3:13-15, Mark 1:9, Luke 3:21]

Jesus began His ministry with the same words as John the Baptist..

"**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" [Matthew 3:2, Mark 1:4]

And **Jesus baptized** people by His disciples. [John 3:22-26, 4:1-2]

Jesus commanded the Apostles to include water baptism in their ministry of the Gospel to the entire world. [Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16]

As the Church began **Peter** commanded the people to:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**. [Acts 2:38-41]

The baptism is for the remission of sins and connected to repentance.

The promise associated with baptism is the **gift of the Holy Spirit**

Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you. [Matthew 28:20]

The formula varies in the Bible

In the **Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit** (command of Jesus) [Matthew 28:19]

In the **Name of Jesus** (Holy Spirit came after Apostles laid on their hands) [Acts 8:2-16]

In the **Name of the Lord** (received the Holy Spirit before baptism) [Acts 10:34-48]

In the **Name of the Lord Jesus** (baptized, and filled with Holy Spirit after Paul laid his hands on them) [Acts 19:1-7]

Be baptized, washing away sins, **calling on the Name of the Lord** (command by Ananias to Paul) [Acts 22:16]

Into Christ (those baptized into Christ have put on Christ) [Galatians 3:1-29]

The form is a picture demonstrating death, burial, and resurrection

This would require complete submersion. [Romans 6:1-7,

The focus must be on Christ Jesus 1 Corinthians 1:11-17]

Buried with Christ in baptism, raised to walk in newness of life.

[Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2::8-15, 3:1-11]

Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you. [Matthew 28:20]

CONCLUSION

Baptism is:

A public acknowledgment of sin.

A public declaration of ones commitment to depart from sin in ones life.

A public demonstration that the sins are washed away.

Death and burial of the person's sinful life style.

Resurrection of a new life cleansed of sin.

A commitment to live pure before God in obedience to His commandments.

Faith in God to provide the Salvation He promised in Messiah (Christ) Jesus our Lord.

Membership in the Body of Christ, the Church, with all the Saints.