

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
JAMESTOWN, KY

Christian Baptism in the Holy Bible-

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 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,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Romans 6:3-8

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.
6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--
7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Matthew 3:1-11

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea
2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"
4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.
5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.
6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Acts 2:37-41

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
38 Peter replied, "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.
39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."
40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."
41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:35-39

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

37

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said,

47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Acts 16:29-34

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

Acts 19:1-6

19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples

2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Romans 6:3-4

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Galatians 3:26-28

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,

27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:12

12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

1 Peter 3:18-22

18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison

20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,
21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Official Statement on Baptism from the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene-

XII. Baptism

16. We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

Preliminary Explanations-

Baptism is commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Baptism is the external sign (symbol) of our internal conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ. In our conversion to the Lord we renounced (repented of) our old life of sin, we were forgiven and cleansed from our sins, and received our new life in Christ.

Baptism is the outward demonstration of our inward transformation by which our old life of sin is buried with Christ and we are raised up a new person with a new life in and with Christ.

Baptism is the public ceremony signifying a private decision. The public ceremony is really a celebration with the whole Church of what you have done in a private decision with Christ.

Baptism is an outward ceremony of purification of the body that signifies the inward purification of the soul.

Who Should be Baptized?

- 1) Those who have recently accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- 2) Those who have recently made a decision to recommit their lives to Jesus Christ and have never been baptized as a believer in Christ.
- 3) Those who are believers in Christ and have not been baptized as an adult.

Why Get Baptized?

- 1) Christ commanded all believers to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19)

“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...”

- 2) The early Church practiced it as an important aspect of salvation.
 - a) Pentecost. (Acts 2:38-41)
 - b) Philip and the Eunuch. (Acts 8:36-38)
 - c) Paul’s conversion. (Acts 9:18)
 - d) Peter and the Gentiles. (Acts 10:48)

When Should We Get Baptized?

After conversion to Christ. (Acts 2:41; 8:36-38; 9:18; 10:48; 22:16; etc.)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

Can My Family Be Baptized Together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with Pastor Ted for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What Should I Wear When I Am Baptized?

Women should wear shorts and a top which will preserve modesty when wet. Men may wear a shorts or a swimsuit and t-shirt. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet articles of clothing. We provide changing rooms.

Will I Have Anything To Say?

At the beginning of the service, Pastor Ted will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the baptistery for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Ted will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the baptistery, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will be mailed a certificate of your baptism certificate. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

What If I Have Special Needs?

Pastor Ted can perform a private baptism in special circumstances.

What Happens Next?

- 1) You can expect a greater infusion of grace for living your new life in Christ.
- 2) You should expect to continue to grow in Christ.
- 3) You should continue to read your Bible everyday, pray continuously, and tell others about Christ and what He has done for you endeavoring to bring your friends and family members to Christ..
- 4) You should become a part of a small group for discipleship and accountability. (i.e. The New & Growing Christian's Class)