

WATER BAPTISM

Water Baptism is an important act of obedience for every Christian immediately after they receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Water Baptism is a declaration to the entire world that you have received Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a powerful experience.

In the scriptures, every time a Christian gave their life to Christ, they were immediately baptized.

Acts 2:38

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.

Acts 2:41

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women.

Acts 8:36,37

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?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Acts 9:18

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

Acts 16:15

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.

Acts 16:33

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

Acts 18:8

Many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

Acts 19:5

On hearing this they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? *Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.*

Questions!

1. Why is it important that I go under the water when being water baptized?

The word Baptism in the original Greek language meant to immerse. Also, the scriptures indicate that my going under the water in baptism declares to the world that I have died to running my own life and my coming back up from under the water proclaims to the world that the resurrection power of Jesus Christ is now alive in me.

Colossians 2:12

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.

Romans 6:3,4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

2. If I was baptized as an infant, do I need to be baptized again?

Baptizing infants was a practice that originated from the practice of dedicating babies to the Lord. This is what Hannah did with her baby son Samuel in I Samuel 1. Dedicating a baby to the Lord as an infant is a beautiful and meaningful ceremony. It is a time of asking the Lord to guide and protect this child.

However, it is very important for each person to make a personal decision to be water baptized as a declaration to the world that they have personally received Jesus as their Savior. This is why the scriptures indicate that it was after a decision for Christ that the person was Water 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

Luke 3:3

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:47

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

Galatians 3:27

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

1 Peter 3:21

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

3. If I have Re-dedicated my life to Christ is it a good idea to get re-baptized.

Generally Yes! There are many people who move from a state of being unsure to very sure that they are ready to follow Christ and they declare this through being re-baptized.

4. How old does a child have to be to understand how to be a Christian and to be water baptized.

The child has to be old enough to understand that: they are a sinner, that Christ died for their sins and that by receiving Jesus free gift of eternal life they are going to heaven. For some children this happens as young as 3-4 years old. Whenever you are unsure, it is important to believe the child if they say they are ready to receive Jesus as Savior.

Our Children's Pastor has water baptisms four times a year during a special service for children and their Parents.

Our Youth Ministry also has regular times of water baptisms for Teenagers.

5. If I (an adult) want to be Water Baptized here at Liberty Church, how do I set that up?

All you have to do is call our church office and set up a time to come in and meet with one of our staff. They will video tape your testimony and schedule you to be water baptized during one of our services. They are also available to answer any of your questions.

We video tape your testimony so that you are able to have a calm relaxed time of sharing with everyone that you have received Jesus as your Savior and Lord. We then play your video testimony right before you are water baptized.

Water Baptism is a very sacred, powerful and WONDERFUL time of public declaration that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord and that you are not ashamed to tell that to the world. This is why we do Water Baptisms as a part of our worship services.

We rejoice with you in your decision to follow Christ.