

Water Baptism

Pastor Jordan Biel | Rock of Grace | #WhitePapers

What is Water Baptism & why should we get baptized?

Obedience to Jesus

So there's a difference between Jesus being Savior and being LORD and Savior. Too many Christians in America make the mistake of only making Jesus Savior, not feeling the need to actually obey Him as Lord - to do what He says. In Scripture Jesus tells His followers, therefore us, to be baptized.

It's a command of Jesus and an act of obedience for the person who chooses to follow Jesus. It is an action that opens the windows of Heaven. It illustrates us being buried with Christ then being raised up out of the water(grave) to indicate our new life in Him. This new life also indicates our power over sin and power to walk in Jesus' love.

Jesus' Example

Luke 3:22

We have this picture of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. In this moment of humility, He asked His cousin John to baptize Him. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove.

The voice of Father God came through the Heavens to affirm three things: Jesus' identity as a son. God's affection "whom I love" and Father's affirmation "In whom I am well-pleased." Let the Father do the same in your life! WOW!

Can we just make a childlike assumption here and say that if we want to hear the voice of our Heavenly Father & begin to impact the world around us with His love like Jesus did, maybe we too should be baptized, like Jesus was. We can and should follow Jesus' example.

It's a sign of being His disciple

Matt. 28:19

Jesus is sending out His disciples to now DO the works He has been doing and BE the person, the ambassador of Heaven that HE has been. And in doing that He tells them

“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.”

Water-baptism is just like many things in the Christian life; it's a step of faith. It's the answer to the question “What's Next?” after you've chosen to follow Jesus.

But why does Jesus want us to do this?

Scripture tells us that

Water Baptism is a demonstration or an act that displays our love for Jesus and choice to be His followers.

Romans 6:3-4 says **“That's what baptism in to the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus. When we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.”**

This is why water baptism is so powerful! It's an act of worship. It's an act of surrender. It's a sign to your heart and to the world that it is no longer you who live but Jesus Christ who is now going to live through you.

One of the things you hear me say often is this... Jesus not only died for us but died as us. This is the power of the Gospel. He died as you - a sinner so that that YOUR sins could be paid for - the punishment served. But when He rose to new life, He rose as YOU, giving you victory over sin and death! Today I want to tell you that you Jesus not only rises out of the grave as resurrected JESUS, but He rises up out of the grave and comes to life AS you when you are water-baptized! When we are water baptized, it signifies this union with Christ! Last but not least ...

It opens the Heavens over our life.

After Jesus' baptism, He moves in the miraculous, bringing Heaven's reality to earth - displaying what He prayed “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Jesus teaches us often that Heaven can invade earth. God's reality can become what we experience here on earth! We can have glimpses of Heaven while here

on earth. We can experience the joy of Christ (what Heaven experiences non-stop) here on earth.

Without the voice of Heaven, without the Father's instruction, without the Father's smile of approval, life is empty and void. Baptism is portrayed as a act of obedience that Jesus took to give us an example to *begin* to live this kind of life.

I want my life to be open to the voice of Heaven! Just like Jesus began to give words of knowledge to people after His baptism, I want to give words of knowledge to people to encourage them. Just like Jesus began to heal the sick after His baptism, I want to begin to heal the sick. I want the same love and power flowing through me that flowed through Jesus and according to the Bible, that's what Father God wants too!

When I'm hearing the voice and language of Heaven, I'm able to impart the ideology of Heaven, Heaven's way of thinking to the broken world around me.

Is the Holy Spirit Baptism different from the Water Baptism?

Yes.

In John 14, Jesus promises us that the Father gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why?

To remind us of what Jesus has said - to tell us the truth - and to empower us to be His witness.

His Spirit comes to empower us to believe the truth - to believe that God is able to forgive sins, heal the sick, deliver the person who is tormented by evil thoughts...

His Spirit enables us to share with confidence the Gospel to those who are lost. He wants us to partner with Him. We are no longer servants, but friends and partners with Jesus! WOW! So that GOD can not just be with us but IN us.

Read John 14:15–31 (ESV)

...26 **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you....**

Read John 15:9–17 (ESV): As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Ok then Jesus tells us that it wont be easy. He tells us at times, people will hate us because the name of Jesus.

Skip to John 15:26

John 15:26–27 (ESV) “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

Do you see that? You will be IN Christ and Christ will be IN you. Jesus told His disciples “Look, right now I’m with you but it’s better for you if I go bc I’ll be IN you and will never leave you.”

SPONGE ILLUSTRATION

Jesus was saying He wants us to be immersed in His love, saturated in His Spirit! This is what Jesus was saying to His disciples. This is what Jesus is saying to us. And that BEGINS with baptism. A declaration that we are His! That we live SOLEY for JESUS CHRIST!

Read John 16:4–15 (ESV)

These two chapters, John 15 & 16 are in my top favorite chapters in the entire Bible because Jesus is being so passionate about telling His

followers (and now that is you and me) that we belong to Him and that He wants us to find JOY in knowing Him and JOY in building His Kingdom! Notice what He said “So that your joy may be complete” **These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.** THE NIV says it like this “I’m telling you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete!”

Some of you may be thinking lately or you’re wondering “Where is the joy in my life?” “Why don’t I have joy?” Why don’t I have peace? Why don’t you try something today!? Why not instead of trying to “NOT THINK” about being sad or worried or angry, why don’t you REPLACE those thoughts and emotions with the JOY of the LORD the JOY that comes with being FILLED AND IMMersed in HIS SPIRIT - the JOY that comes with DOING HIS WILL and simply RECEIVING HIS SPIRIT!

Your joy won’t be complete until you begin to do God’s will in somehow reaching people with Jesus’ love.

God’s Word tells us in Romans 8 that we are being formed into the image of Jesus - that our hearts and minds are being changed to become like that of Jesus. It tells that Jesus is the first among his brother and sisters, you and I!

Read Romans 8:31–39 (ESV)

Water Baptism is not required to be saved as “We are saved by faith through grace” alone.

We’re saved when we believe Jesus to be the one who died in our place and gives us the power to overcome sin and be with Him forever as Family. His Father becomes our Father. JN 1:12; 1 CO 15:22; RO 8:1

Water Baptism, however, is commanded by Jesus to illustrate and demonstrate our commitment to following Jesus. Scripturally, it’s a catalyst for moving in the power of God. What we believe at ROG is not that it’s “just” a sign. But that it IS a special moment where GOD shows up and gives us courage to be His witness. We’re following Jesus’ example to be baptized and then enter ministry.

Water Baptism is a picture of us being buried with Christ (water/ grave) and us rising up out of the water (grave) to new life! Christ now lives in me!