

THE NEW LIFE

Acts 22:6-16

- **Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul, was a brilliant educational and religious leader of his day (Philippians 3:1-8).**
- **Saul of Tarsus was a great persecutor of Christians before surrendering his life to Jesus; but later became a great witness for the Lord after he was saved and baptized.**
- *"Then he (Ananias) told me, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and hear Him speak. For you are to be His witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'"* (Acts 22:14-16)
- **For thousands of years, many religions have practiced baptism as a means of identifying new followers**
- **There is a lot of confusion about what baptism is and what it means.**
- **"Baptism" in the Greek language (the New Testament original language) is *"baptizo"* which literally means to immerse or submerge in water.**
- **By being baptized, we are taking a personal ownership of our faith, as opposed to passively complying with a corporate religion or tradition.**
- "Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith." – Watchman Nee
- ***What does baptism mean and why should I get baptized?***

Baptism Symbolizes The Fact That:

WE ARE CLEANSED FROM OUR SINS

- Ananias - *"For you are to be His witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 22:15-16)
- **Genuine Christians should no longer desire to continue living in sin.**

- **When God forgives us and "saves us", our sins are cast *Out of Reach.***
    - *'He (God) has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."* (Psalm 103:12)
- **When God forgives us and "saves us", our sins are cast *Out of Mind.***
    - The Lord - *"I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.""* (Jeremiah 31:34b)
- **When God forgives us and "saves us", our sins are cast *Out of Sight.***
    - *"You (O God) will trample our sins under Your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!"* (Micah 7:19b)
- **When God forgives us and "saves us", our sins are cast *Out of Existence.***
    - *"Repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away…"* (Acts 3:19)
- **Water Baptism symbolizes the fact that Christians have been cleansed by Jesus' blood and by God's Spirit.**
- *"That water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 3:21)

Baptism Symbolizes The Fact That:

WE ARE JOINED WITH <u>CHRIST</u> <u>JESUS</u>

- Paul - *"Have you forgotten that when <u>we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism</u>, we joined Him in His death?"* (Romans 6:3)
- **When we take the step of Baptism we are joined to Christ Jesus *"In His Death."***
    - *"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism."* (Romans 6:4)
    - **The "going down into the water" symbolizes the death of our old way of life. "I'm dying to myself."**
    - Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24)
    - **Jesus said that anyone who wants to be His follower needs to be willing to "die" to their old way of life.**
- **When we take the step of Baptism we are joined to Christ Jesus *"In His Life."***
    - *"And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes."* (Galatians 3:27)
    - **Baptism is telling the world we are now associated with Jesus Christ, His Followers called Christians, and His organization called the Church.**

Baptism Symbolizes The Fact That:

WE HAVE STARTED A <u>NEW</u> <u>LIFE</u>

- Paul - *"For <u>you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life</u> because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead."* (Colossians 2:12)
- **Baptism incorporates imagery to demonstrate that we are united with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection.**
- **Coming up out of the water symbolizes birth and resurrection – that which has just "died" is now Spiritually alive.**
- **Baptism tells the world we are not ashamed of the Gospel and are now on the same team with Jesus Christ.**
- Paul - *"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes . . ."* (Romans 1:16)
- **Baptism shows we are a card-carrying member of the Kingdom of God.**

- Ananias to Saul - *"What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized."* (Acts 22:16)
- *"Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized."* (Acts 9:18)
- **Not taking the step of Baptism holds us back from the next level in our relationship with God (Acts 2:38-47).**
- *"Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.***"** (Acts 16:33)
- **Baptism should take place as soon as possible once a person has accepted Jesus into their life.**
- ***Have I been baptized since I surrendered my life to Jesus, and if not, am I willing to take that step of obedience today or in the near future?***