

# BAPTISM AT HOPE

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why Be Baptized?

**Because Jesus was baptized and you want to follow his example.**

*“Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (Mark 1:9).*

**Because Christ commanded it.**

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

**Because baptism is the first step for anyone who believes in Jesus and wants to follow him.**

*“When they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘What shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you...’” (Acts 2:37-38).*

### What’s The Meaning of Baptism?

**It illustrates the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus.**

*“I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved... Christ died for our sins... he was buried... he was raised on the third day” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).*

*“For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead” (Colossians 2:12).*

**It is a picture of your new life as a Christian.**

*“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” (Romans 6:3-4).*

**Baptism doesn’t save you.**

Only faith in Christ does that. **Baptism is what saved people do.** It is like a wedding ring – it’s the outward symbol of the commitment you’ve made in your heart.

### How Are We Baptized?

**Like Jesus — by immersion in water.**

*“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water” (Matthew 3:16).*

**Every baptism in the New Testament is by immersion in water.**

*“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38,39).*

**The word baptize means “to dip under water” or “to immerse.”**

**Immersion best symbolizes a burial and resurrection** (see Romans 6:1-11).

### Who Should Be Baptized?

**Everyone who believes in Jesus.**

*“Many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized” (Acts 18:8).*

Jesus commanded all Christians to be baptized as evidence of their decision to follow Him.

**No need to wait!**

*“Those who accepted his message were baptized... that day” (Acts 2:41).*

*“That very hour of the night... immediately he was baptized” (Acts 16:33).*

**What about children?**

Baptism in the Bible follows belief. At Hope, we wait until our children are old enough to understand and believe the gospel before we baptize them.

**Should I be baptized again?**

If you were baptized as a baby, we encourage you to get baptized again as a believer. It doesn’t devalue your prior experience but simply reflects a desire to be baptized as Jesus and his followers were baptized.

### Get Ready For Your Baptism

**Who will baptize you?**

You are welcome to choose anyone as long as they are a believer in right relationship with God, or an elder or pastor in the pool will baptize you.

**What should I wear?**

Dress modestly (like a dark t-shirt). Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a bag for wet clothes.

**Will I have to say anything?**

Before you are baptized, you (or a designated reader) will read your story of faith. Each baptism also includes a confession of faith by the person being baptized. You will answer questions similar to this, “Do you believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead to give you new life? Is it your intent to follow Jesus the rest of your life?” Then the person baptizing you will dip you under the water, raise you back up, and congratulate you!