



I am so excited that you have made a decision to be water baptized. Maybe you are reading this simply because you are curious? Great either way! We believe baptism is an incredible step for you to take.

I want to encourage you to take some time to look through this book we have prepared. It will give you a good understanding of water baptism and it's importance in your life. As you look through this, it's our hope that will be a tool that will help answer your questions about water baptism on your journey in following Jesus Christ.

I still remember my baptism to this day. It was an incredible moment for me personally! It's our hope that you will see the value of this moment and will look back to this day as a milestone in your spiritual walk with God.

You need to know that God loves you deeply and has an incredible plan for your life. This is one of those steps.

I'm excited to see and hear what God continues to do in your life.

Steve Gill
Lead Pastor, Turning Point Church



The Baptism Process

The baptism process at Turning Point has been designed to be both simple and meaningful. Here are the basics.

Sign up for water baptism. While you are at our guest table, please sign up for baptism. You can also register online by emailing me at steve.gill@tpclive.org

Read up on baptism. We want to encourage you to read through and complete the Bible study portions in this booklet. This will help you in your understanding of baptism and answer some potentially key questions.

Invite your family and friends. This is a great way for you to share your story and your experience with others in your life. Let them share the joy of this experience with you. No matter where they may be on their spiritual journey, your baptism will be a great story of commitment for them to see themselves.

Get baptized! Baptisms will take place a few times a year at Turning Point. Please check out the web and face book for regular updates.

What About Water Baptism?

By Stephen Gill

At this point you have most likely made the most important decision of your life - to accept Jesus Christ as the leader and Lord of your life. That's incredible! I am so glad you are now part of a God's family. Now, a great next step for you is to follow Christ's instructions to be water baptized.

There are several common questions most people have concerning water baptism. The biggest is what is it? Simply stated, baptism is an outward demonstration of an inward experience. You are publicly telling the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, here are some questions that are commonly asked and some scripture references for you to look up if you choose. Let's get started.

First of all, you may be asking, **"Is it really important that I be baptized?"** Yes, it is. Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by BAPTISM in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." So it is a command for us to be baptized.



Peter also made it clear in Acts 2:38 when he said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Later, Peter also commands it in Acts 10:48, "*And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*" So you see, water baptism should not be an option. Water baptism is an act of obedience to a command given to us by Christ.

Second, maybe you're asking, "**Does water baptism save me?**" Simply put, no. The scripture is very clear that your sins are washed away or forgiven what Christ did on the cross for us, not by the tub of water that you are baptized in. Paul said in Romans 10:9-10: "*...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" Salvation comes before you take the step of water baptism.

Third, you might ask, "**Do I have to be dipped or sprinkled?**" Here at Turning Point we practice water baptism by immersion. The very word 'baptize' means to be 'fully wet', 'dunked' or 'immersed'. In Matthew 3:16 it says Jesus "*came up out of the water*". In Acts 8:38, talking about Philip and the Ethiopian, we read, "*They went down, into the water.*" So, we practice what has been expressed in Scripture and follow Christ's example.

Fourth, you might ask, "**When should I be baptized in water?**" It should always follow as soon as possible after your commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Peter said in Acts 2:38, "*Repent and be baptized.*" So, first, you need to repent and accept Jesus Christ and then follow that by being baptized in water.

Fifth, you say, "I was sprinkled as a child—**isn't that good enough?**" That sprinkling or confirmation was before you made a personal commitment to Jesus. Typically, it's an expression made by your parents on your behalf. That's great that they took that step. However, the scripture pattern of water baptism always follows our own personal repentance and decision to follow Christ.

So, if you were sprinkled or even immersed prior to your own salvation, then you should be baptized when you are ready. It needs to be your decision after you turn your life over to Jesus Christ.

And then **finally, what does water baptism indicate?** As I already said, it communicates to the world that you are a Christ follower. In Acts 8:37, Philip said, "*If you believe with all of your heart, you may be baptized.*" It tells the world you are following Jesus Christ and it also indicates you have died to your sins. Listen to Paul in Romans 6:6-10, "Our old sinful selves were crucified with



Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God." This tells us that water baptism symbolizes that you have died to your old self and to your sins.

At the same time, water baptism symbolizes that you have been raised with Christ to a new life. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" When you are lowered into the waters and then raised again it is to say, "I have died to myself and now I am being raised with Christ to live a new life for Him."

Here are some passages where you can explore the teaching about water baptism.

In regard to water baptism, what did Jesus do? Mark 1:9

How do we know when Jesus was baptized that He was immersed? Mark 1:10

What was the commission Jesus gave the world before He left? Matthew 28:19

Why are we immersed when we are baptized? Romans 6:4

How is immersion a type of death and resurrection like Christ's? Colossians 2:12

What did Peter command the people to do as soon as they had repented? Acts 2:38

What happened to the three thousand who were saved through hearing the Word? Acts 2:41

At the house of Cornelius, Peter preached and all those who were saved as they heard the Word were filled with the Holy Spirit. What was the question Peter asked? Acts 10:47