



Water Baptism



What is Water Baptism?

Baptism is a symbol of a covenant and commitment, much like a wedding ring. When a couple marries, they give each other a wedding ring. This ring does not make them married. The ring is a symbol to others of that promise and covenant they made in their hearts to each other. Like the wedding ring, baptism is a symbol which testifies before God and man of the promise and covenant a person has made in their heart with Jesus.

Baptism is identifying with Jesus' death. It is like saying to the Lord Jesus, "Your death is my death—I no longer have to die for my sins (Romans 3:23). Your life is my life—I now have Your eternal life, and I will not die for my sins" (Romans 6:23). As you are laid down in the water, you die to your old self. And as you are brought back up out of the water, you experience the new life and resurrection that belong to you through Jesus.

Romans 6:1–6 - “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Colossians 2:11–14 “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Who Should Be Baptised?

Only those who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as their Lord, by turning away from sin and trusting in Him, should be baptized. In the Bible, only believers are baptized. For this reason, we do not baptize babies. While babies may be dedicated to the Lord from birth, baptism is for believers. Babies do not believe, nor do they need to. They have no awareness of God and no guilt of sin (Acts 2:38 and Acts 16:31–34).

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “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.”

How Should We Be Baptised?

Baptism is to be done by immersion in water because:

- The Greek word “baptizo” means to immerse or dunk.
- Jesus was immersed (Matthew 3:13–17).
- The early church immersed (Acts 2:41).
- The New Testament teaches nothing but immersion.

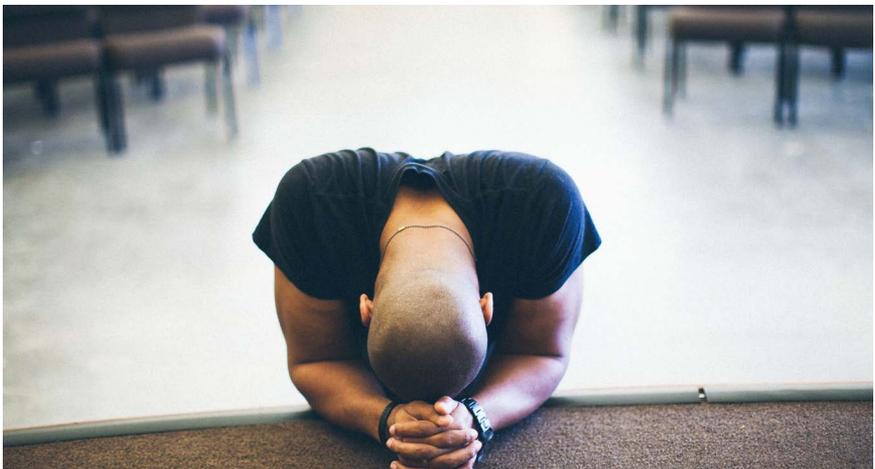
Matthew 3:13-15 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

Why Should We Be Baptised?

- **Jesus commands it** (Matthew 28:19–20).
- **Jesus was baptized** (Mark 1:9–11). We follow His example in baptism. We also follow His example expressed in His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation identifies with Jesus' death at the cross. Water baptism identifies with His burial. Being filled with the Holy Spirit identifies with Him in His resurrection.
- **Baptism is an act of confession and identification.** It has no power to take away your sin or make you right with God. Baptism is a demonstration of your covenant with God and your commitment to Christ.

Matthew 28:19 “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.”

Acts 22:16 “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”



When Should We Be Baptised?

- **After you have received Christ as Lord and Savior** (Acts 18:8).
- **At your first opportunity** (Acts 8:35–39 and Acts 16:30–34).
- If you are a professing Christian but have never baptized in water, it's never too late to take that step of obedience.

Acts 8:12 - "But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

Acts 8:38 - "And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."

Acts 9:18 - "And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized."

Acts 16:33 - "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family."



Taking The Next Steps

Now that you've taken the time to become instructed about baptism, it's time to move on to the next step: **participating in the Baptism Service**. Baptism Services take place periodically at Elim. Announcements will be made in the weeks leading up to a baptism service.

To participate in an upcoming Water Baptism Service:

1. Notify the church office.
2. Read through this booklet.

On the day of your baptism, please bring:

- Change of clothes (appropriate for getting wet.)
We will provide a t-shirt.
- Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Towel
- Sandals or flip flops

Your family may want to sit in the center of the sanctuary in order to have the best view.

Galations 5:16 - "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

1 Peter 3:21 - "Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:11 - "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Study Guide

The following questions are a guide to understanding water baptism. **If you have additional questions, please call us at 579 9678** and ask to speak to one of the pastors.

1. Read Acts 2:38 and Acts 16:31–34. **Who was baptized in water?** _____
2. In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus told His disciples to do three things as they were representing Him in their daily lives. **List the three commands and the one promise.**

3. In Mark 1:9–11, _____ was baptized in water. **What was the Father’s response?** _____

4. According to Romans 6:3-4, **we identify with Christ’s** _____ through water baptism, and **we are** _____ with him in our new life.
5. According to Acts 8:35–39, **when was the eunuch baptized in water?** _____.
6. In Acts 16:30–34, the Philippian jailer and those in his household were baptized in water _____ after they received Christ.

Preparing for Water Baptism

Baptism is an act of _____.

One reason we baptize new believers is in obedience to the command of Jesus:

Matthew 28:18–20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Baptism is an act of _____.

We also baptize new believers because Jesus was Himself baptized by His cousin John. When we are baptized, it is an act of following Jesus, an act of discipleship. This is what discipleship means, to follow Jesus.

Matthew 3:13–17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Baptism is the practice of _____.

When we obey the Lord by following Him in baptism, we are following the pattern of the early church we find in The Book of Acts. Acts is a historical book in the New Testament, which recounts the story of the first followers of Jesus. There are many examples: Acts 2:36–38; 2:41; 8:36–38; 10:47–48; 16:30–34. We will look at one in particular in the next section.

Acts 2:41 "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

Baptism is an act of _____.

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, yet baptism is more than symbolic. It's a spiritually significant work of living faith, whereby we bury the "old man" (Romans 6:6). We are included in Jesus' suffering and triumph when we first believe. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Jesus' death and the waters of baptism become for us a watery grave. The person we used to be exists no more! The old "us" has been buried!

Romans 6:1-7 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin."

Baptism is a sign of God's _____ made without hands.

God relates to His people through covenant. When God established His covenant with Abraham, He gave circumcision as a sign of covenant. In the new covenant God has established with us through Jesus, baptism is the outward sign of our inclusion in the covenant.

Colossians 2:11–12 “In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

Still Have Questions?

If you find yourself with any outstanding questions, we would love to sit down and chat further with you.

Feel free to contact us at 579-9678 or info@elim.nf.ca.

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