



## **Why Should I Be Baptized in Water?**

Water Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus' command. After His resurrection, one of the last things Jesus told His followers was: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus commands us to make disciples and baptize them!

## **What Does Baptism Symbolize?**

Baptism is a picture of new life. It symbolizes burial and resurrection and newness of life! When someone becomes a follower of Jesus, the old self, ruled by sin and death, has died, and they become a new creation. Going into the water symbolizes this death of the old self, and coming up out of the water symbolizes being born again, the new resurrected self (Romans 6:1-4). Baptism also portrays our relationship with Jesus. We are baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is a picture of our allegiance to the Triune God who has reconciled us to Himself and calls us His children. He has redeemed us from the enemy, He loves us, He has made us a new creation, and He is at work in all of us. Baptism is a public declaration of salvation and new identity in Christ. This is an opportunity for you to step out in Real Responsibility and declare your faith before friends and family. It is an opportunity for your faith to transition from an internal focus to an external one.

## **What Can I Expect at My Baptism?**

For your baptism, wear what you would normally wear to church. However, you should also bring a change of clothes (dark-colored shorts and a t-shirt) to wear for the baptism. After the message, the Pastor will invite the baptismal candidates to the room behind the platform to prepare for baptism.

Before the service, the Pastor will meet with the baptismal candidates to talk about the process and meaning of baptism.

Baptism consists of a public declaration of faith followed by full immersion in water. The Pastor will perform your baptism. He will guide you through a simple confession of faith.

Before the Pastor immerses you in water, you will be asked the following question: "Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and commit to following Him all the days of your life?"

Once you say "Yes," the Pastor will say, "Because of the testimony of your faith, I baptize you, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," as he immerses you.