



# Washing Away the Past 4

*The truth about Baptism*

There is no greater joy than beginning again—knowing that your past is not only forgiven but forgotten. Washing away the past is what Baptism is all about. Everything you’ve ever said, done, or thought can be forever erased. For that very reason, baptism is one of the most important teachings in the New Testament. It is so important that before his ascension Jesus commissioned his disciples to teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism is far greater than just *beginning again*, it is more than getting a second chance. Through baptism we have been delivered from the penalty of sin. It also brings us into right standing with God. In our former condition we had hearts and minds that were in conflict with God. Our old way of life condemned us to eternal separation from God. However, when we enter into the new life through baptism our old sinful nature is replaced with a new spiritual nature.

Baptism is the ceremony of *spiritually* entering into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Full immersion in the water represents our *spiritual burial*. Our sins are washed away and we are raised to a new life in Christ. We are no longer enemies against God, we are now His sons and daughters. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives to empower us to live the new life in Christ. We experience victory in that *new walk* as long as we remain connected to the source of our power, Jesus Christ.

## OUR CONDITION BEFORE BAPTISM

- Isaiah 53:6 - We have all gone astray following our own ways.
- Isaiah 64:6 - We are unclean and our righteousness is like filthy rags.
- Isaiah 59:2 - Our iniquities have separated us from God.
- Romans 3:23 - All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory.
- Romans 5:8 - We are sinners by nature.
- Romans 6:23 - The wages of sin is death.
- Ephesians 2:1 - We were dead in trespasses and sins.
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 - We inherited death because of Adam.
- Romans 5:12 - Through Adam death affected the whole human race.
- Jeremiah 17:9 - The Human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked
- Isaiah 24:5 - The earth and its inhabitants are defiled.
- Proverbs 13:15 - Because of transgression life is hard.

## THE NEED FOR BAPTISM

- John 3:5 - Unless we are born again we cannot enter the kingdom.
- John 3:3 - Unless we are born again we cannot see the kingdom.
- Matthew 28:19 - Jesus gave the commission to the disciples to baptize.
- Ephesians 4:5 - The Bible teaches that there is only one baptism.
- Mark 1:9, 10 - Jesus was fully immersed in the Jordan, not sprinkled.
- Acts 8:38, 39 - The Ethiopian eunuch was fully immersed at his baptism.
- Acts 22:16 - The water of baptism is a symbol of washing away sin.
- Mark 16:16 - Belief and baptism are necessary for salvation.

## THE TRANSFORMATION THAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM

- Romans 6:4,5 - Baptism brings us into the likeness of Christ.
- Galatians 2:20 - Following baptism our new life can only come from Christ.
- Galatians 3:27 - When we are baptized we are clothed in the life of Jesus.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - When we accept Christ our lives are made new.
- Romans 6:9 - Baptism removes us from the condemnation of death.
- Matthew 3:16 - The Holy Spirit is present at the baptism.
- Romans 8:1 - We live free from condemnation as long we stay in Christ.
- John 1:12 - As we receive Christ we become a part of His royal family.

## THE INVITATION TO ENTER BAPTISM:

Jesus invites you to join Him in the power and joy of the new life. Freedom from your past and the condemnation of sin is just a decision away. If it is your desire to wash away your past and have a growing relationship in Jesus, inform someone that can help you prepare for baptism. Peace and eternal joy will be your experience. This is a decision you won’t regret. God bless you.

I give my life to Jesus through Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ ( full name)