

Dr. Marvin E. Moore

WHAT IS

B A P T I S M

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*“See, here is water; what doth hinder
me to be baptized?”
— Acts 8:36*

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is a sacred and joyful step of obedience for every believer in Jesus Christ.

It is a public declaration of your faith — showing that you have been born again, forgiven of your sins, and now belong to God's family.

At HTBC, we believe that baptism follows faith in Jesus Christ and symbolizes your new life in Him.

*“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”
— Acts 8:37*

PART I

WHAT IS BAPTISM

1

WHAT IS BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation. It represents what has already happened in your heart — that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

Scriptures:

- *Romans 6:3–4 — “We are buried with Him by baptism into death... raised to walk in newness of life.”*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17 — “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”*
- *Galatians 3:27 — “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

Illustration:

Just as a wedding ring shows that someone is married, baptism shows that you belong to Jesus. It does not make you a Christian — it declares that you already are one.

2

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED

1. *Because Jesus was baptized.*

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.” — Matthew 3:13

2. *Because Jesus commanded it.*

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...”
Matthew 28:19–20*

3. *Because it shows obedience and identification with Christ.*

*“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”
Mark 16:16*

4. *Because it's your testimony of faith.*

*“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death.”
Romans 6:4*

Illustration:

A soldier wears his uniform proudly. Baptism is the believer's uniform — showing whose side you are on.

3

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Anyone who has personally believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

*“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.”
Acts 2:41*

*“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God... they were baptized.”
Acts 8:12*

Not infants or unbelievers, but those who have heard, believed, and received the gospel.

PREPARING YOUR HEART FOR BAPTISM

Before baptism, take time to reflect and pray.

Ask God to cleanse your heart, strengthen your faith, and help you walk in obedience.

Steps of Preparation:

- 1. Believe — Trust that Jesus died and rose again for you (John 3:16).*
- 2. Repent — Turn away from sin and surrender your life to God (Acts 2:38).*
- 3. Confess — Openly declare Jesus as your Lord (Romans 10:9–10).*
- 4. Commit — Choose to live for Christ daily (Luke 9:23).*

Illustration:

Before a seed grows, it must first die in the soil. Baptism is like planting yourself in Christ — dying to self so new life can spring forth

WHAT HAPPENS DURING BAPTISM

When you are baptized, three things happen symbolically:

- 1. You are buried with Christ — going down into the water represents the death of your old sinful nature.*
- 2. You are raised with Christ — coming out of the water represents new life and resurrection power.*
- 3. You testify publicly — you declare to family, friends, and the church that you belong to Jesus.*

Scripture:

“Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God.”

— Colossians 2:12

AFTER BAPTISM — WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

Baptism is not the end; it's the beginning of your new life with Christ. Now, you must grow in faith and fellowship.

Commit to:

- *Daily prayer and Bible reading (Joshua 1:8)*
- *Regular worship and fellowship with other believers (Hebrews 10:25)*
- *Serving God with your gifts (Romans 12:1–2)*
- *Sharing your faith with others (Matthew 5:16)*

Illustration:

*As a newly couple begins a lifetime journey together
Your baptism is the start of your lifelong walk with Jesus.*

7

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1. Do I truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?*
- 2. Have I repented of my sins and accepted His forgiveness?*
- 3. Do I understand that baptism is a public declaration of my faith?*
- 4. Am I ready to live a new life in obedience to Christ?*

PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*“Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God.
Thank You for dying for my sins and rising again for my
salvation.*

*I turn from my old ways and surrender my life to You.
As I prepare for baptism, cleanse my heart, renew my spirit,
and help me live faithfully for You all my days.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”*

CONCLUSION

Nothing should stop you from being baptized if you believe in Jesus Christ with all your heart.

Just as Philip said to the Ethiopian eunuch:

“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”

— Acts 8:37

Baptism is your yes to Jesus — your public declaration that you belong to Him forever.

Welcome to the family of faith!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Marvin E Moore is the Pastor & Founder of Harvest Time Bible Church in Port Arthur, TX, where he has preached the uncompromised Word of God for decades with clarity, compassion, and courage. A shepherd to many and a father in the faith, Pastor Moore is devoted to building strong families, training disciples, and serving the Gulf Coast community with excellence. Alongside his wife, First Lady Lois Moore, he continues to champion a legacy of faith that equips generations to know Jesus, live by the Spirit, and impact their world.