

## **WATER BAPTISM BY FULL IMMERSION**

**Read these Scriptures ...** Matthew 3:13-17 Matthew 28:19 Romans 6:3-4

Water baptism directly connects us to Jesus through our personal identification with His death and resurrection. Baptism by full immersion mirrors the biblical accounts of baptism, such as Jesus' own baptism in the Jordan River depicted in Matthew 3:13–17.

At its core, full immersion baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation. Baptism undergirds our decision to turn away from a life dominated by sin and step into the newness of life offered through Christ. Being submerged in water corresponds to the burial of the old self, while emerging from the water represents resurrection into a new, redeemed identity. This transformative experience demonstrates that we are no longer bound by past guilt, shame and unhealthy habits but we are now cleansed, renewed and made spiritually alive.

**Baptism is a moment of surrender and submission, as we let go of our old selves and surrender to God's will for our lives. Christine Caine**

While baptism itself does not save—salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone—it is a powerful act of obedience. Jesus commanded his followers to baptize disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

**Baptism is a conclusive act of obedience and witness to the world that we are Christ's. Billy Graham**

Water baptism is much more than a religious ritual—it is a clear expression of grace, commitment, and transformation. It helps to develop our identity in Christ, encourages spiritual growth, and reaffirms our place within the body of believers (God's church).

## **DAILY SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION**

Read the Scriptures for each day and write down what this means to you and anything that God might be revealing to you. You can use the dot points as a guide.

**DAY 1. Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"**

- Jesus' final instructions to His disciples, often called the 'Great Commission', tells us about the importance of baptism within the Christian faith. Baptism is a central practise of Christian discipleship.
- Have you been water baptised? If so, describe your experience. If not, consider setting a time to do so.

**DAY 2. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

- Peter's message begins with "Repent." Why is repentance a crucial first step before baptism? What does it mean to genuinely repent?
- Baptism does not remit sins. It is an outward sign of an inner change where sins are forgiven through faith in Christ.

**DAY 3. Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

- Today we will look at the first part of this scripture, and tomorrow, we will cover the last part
- Baptism is presented in two parts, the first being "*baptized into His death*." What does it mean to identify with Christ's death through baptism? Read and reflect on these aligned scriptures on the death of our old nature ... Galatians 5.24-25, Luke 14.27, Luke 9.23-25, Ephesians 4.22.

**DAY 4. Romans 6:3-4** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Today we will look at the second part of this scripture.
- The second part being "*walk in newness of life*." What does it mean to identify with Christ's resurrection through baptism? Read and reflect on these aligned scriptures on our new nature ... 2 Corinthians 5.17, Galatians 2.20, Colossians 2.12, Colossians 3.1

**DAY 5. Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- What does it mean to "*put on Christ*"? Is it like putting on a garment?
- If we are to put on Christ, we should reflect His character. What are some of your favourable characteristics that best reflect who Jesus is? Reflect on some not-so-favourable ones and how these can be "cast off", like an unwanted garment.

**DAY 6. Acts 2.40-41** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

- The immediate impact of Peter's Pentecost sermon was 3000 people were baptised and added to the church.
- Reflect on what this scripture means to you and what your experience was.

**DAY 7. Acts 8:36-38** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water; and he baptized him.

- Immediate Availability: The eunuch's question, "*What hinders me from being baptized?*" highlights the immediacy with which baptism could be administered once belief was present. What does this suggest about the timing of baptism after conversion?
- Confession of Faith: Philip's condition, "*If you believe with all your heart, ...*" and the eunuch's subsequent confession, "*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,*" emphasize the prerequisite of personal faith. Why is a genuine confession of faith essential before or at the time of baptism?
- Immersion as the Mode: Both Philip and the eunuch "*went down into the water*" and Philip "*baptized him*." Should someone who was Christened (water sprinkled on a baby) as part of a traditional church practise, be now baptised as a believing adult?