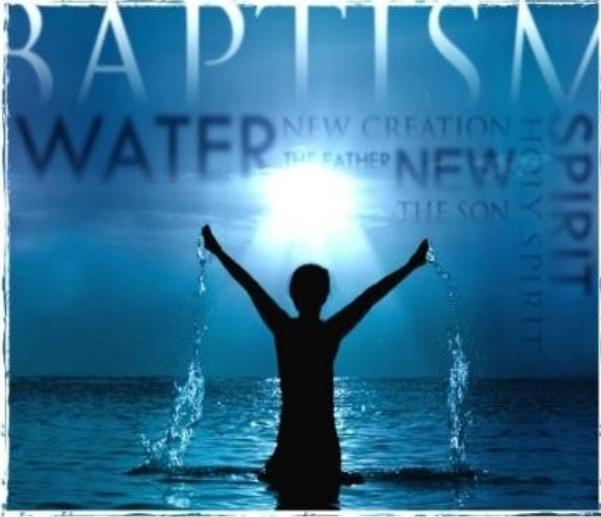


BAPTISM



When someone decides to “get right with Yahuah,” part of the “outward sign” of accepting Yahusha as their savior is being baptized.

It is an exciting time, but there are many questions regarding baptism that should be clarified, since so many conflicting ideas regarding this topic developed over the centuries.

The questions often come from four basic areas:

Can you go to heaven by being baptized?

People are saved (and get to go to heaven) by believing that Yahusha is the Messiah and putting their faith in Him. Baptism alone does not save. However, salvation (being saved) and baptism are always tied together.

What is baptism?

The process of baptism is very simple. You begin by standing, sitting, or kneeling in some water. You are then lowered under the water and then back up out of the water.

The word "baptize" (from the Greek **baptidzo**) means "to identify" or "to be made one with". The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines the Greek word "baptidzo" as making a person "fully wet" (G#907). the true meaning of "baptism," is called "immersion," since we "immerse" ourselves in water and become "fully wet."

Baptism refers to the act of identifying with something in such a way that your nature or character is changed, or it represents the idea that a real change has already taken place.

Water baptism also gives the believer the opportunity to openly testify to others of his born-again experience. It serves as an outward sign and testimony of an inward grace. The believer has been crucified with Yahusha, buried with Him and raised together with Him to walk in newness of life.

Sometimes, people confuse water baptism with the baptism into the Body of Yahusha (being saved). In **Acts 2**, when Peter preached about the death, burial and resurrection of Yahusha , he said: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Yahusha for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Ruach ha Kodesh" (**verse 38**). When a person is born again, he is baptized by the Ruach ha Kodesh into the Body of Yahusha. This is not water baptism. Water baptism is not the

baptism that saves. It is the precious blood that Yahusha shed on the tree, not water, which cleanses us from sin

A person must be baptized into the Body of Yahusha with Baptism of the Ruach ha Kodesh (saved) before water baptism. For without first making Yahusha the Messiah and believing that Yahuah raised Him from the dead, water baptism would have no purpose. Water baptism is an experience after salvation to confirm and strengthen your commitment to live a godly life.

The baptismal waters represent a burial ground. When you're buried with Yahusha in baptism, you are proclaiming to heaven, earth and hell that the old you no longer exists. To be buried with Yahusha means that your old self died to sin just as Yahusha did when He was made sin for us **Romans 6:3, 6, 10-12**. That's why we are immersed. It's a picture of burial.

Coming up out of the water signifies our being raised to new life in Yahusha. To be raised with Yahusha means making Him Messiah of every area of your life—spirit, soul and body. You've been bought with the blood of Yahusha and you belong to Him. Every day you now ask, "Yahuah, where do You want me to go? What do You want me to say? What do You want me to be? Not my will, but Thy will be done.

When should someone be baptized?

One thing is clear, the Bible always places believing in Yahusha for salvation and baptism together. They are not separated. Consider these references:

Acts 2:41 - 3,000 people were baptized after believing on the first day after being filled with the Ruach ha Kodesh. Verses 38 and 39 make it clear that this is the way that it will always be done. That is, all people who accept Yahusha as their savior will come to Him in this way.

Acts 8:26-39 - We know where this road from Jerusalem to Gaza is. Verse 26 terms it a "desert." The only water there was oasis water. This means that the eunuch and Philip climbed down into the people's *drinking water* to do this. Apparently, Philip and the eunuch did not think it could wait until later! (You will also notice they did not take a handful of water and "sprinkle" the eunuch to keep things sanitary, either.) The Bible states that all Philip did was "preach Jesus to him" (verse 35) and then the eunuch said that he wanted to be baptized (verse 36). This means that the preaching of Yahusha includes preaching the need to be baptized.

Acts 9:18 - after this encounter with Yahusha on the Damascus road, Saul (later renamed Paul) accepted Yahusha—and was baptized.

Acts 10:47,48 - Cornelius and those with him were commanded to be baptized, becoming the first non-Jewish converts to believing in Yahusha the Messiah.

Acts 16:13-15 - Lydia and her household "believed" and were baptized.

Acts 16:25-34 - The Philippian jailer "believed" with his household and they were baptized—and this was in the middle of the night!

Also consider the following passages:

Galatians 3:26,27 - “For you are all sons of Yahusha through faith in Yahusha. For as many of you as were baptized into Yahusha.

Ephesians 4:4-6 - *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Messiah, one faith, one baptism; 6 one Yahuah and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

On top of all these references, when Yahusha left the earth He told his followers to make disciples (followers), baptize them, and teach them. Yahusha apparently felt it was pretty important to make this a priority for His followers.

Scripture is clear—belief and baptism were always together. Thus, “when we believe” is the right time to be baptized. If you “believed” some time back and were not baptized, then this should become a priority for you to fulfill what Yahuah asks you do in Scripture.

Why should someone be baptized?

Scripture gives a number of reasons to be baptized:

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahusha for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Ruach ha Kodesh.

Tying repentance and baptism together provides forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Ruach ha Kodesh.

Romans 6:1-7 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? **3** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Yahusha were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Yahusha was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7** For he who has died has been freed from sin.

This shows us that the mode of baptism (immersion) pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Yahusha . In the same way that He went through these things, our old nature is to “die” and we are to be “buried with Him through baptism into death” and raised to “walk in newness of life” (live like Yahusha . So we do not just try to be a better person, we bury the “old person” in the water and become a “new person” through our acceptance of Yahusha. It is like a new birth and a new beginning for us.

Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you as were baptized into Yahusha have put on Messiah. We “put on Messiah” when we are baptized.

1 Peter 3:21 - **Amplified Bible (AMP)** And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before Yahuah [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Yahusha.

Water baptism should be a very significant time in your life as a believer. It's a time to fully commit to obey and follow Yahusha, being willing to fulfill the purpose and plan of Almighty Yahuah for your life. This is not something just for super-believers. It's basic Believers—part of the solid foundation you need to build upon.

So if you feel you've never properly buried your old, sinful nature and dedicated your whole self to Yahuah, don't wait any longer—find a place to participate in water baptism and get totally free!