

Baptism Means -

Believers in the Lord Jesus

Acknowledging their wrong

Pleasing and Obeying God

Transformed by God

Identifying with Christ

Spirit of God within

Meaningful Christian Life



BELIEVERS

BAPTISM

 **Baptist Union**
of Great Britain
www.baptist.org.uk

Believer's Baptism



*A Sign
of New
Life*

What is Believer's Baptism?



Often people are told to back up what they say, put their money where their mouth is, or nail their colours to the mast. When a person becomes a Christian it is important to

show it. A person does that, not only through what they believe, but also through the way they live their life.

However, the Church has traditionally held that people also demonstrate their faith in an act called "Baptism". Many churches "baptise" infants as a way of welcoming them into the church family and giving thanks to God for their safe arrival. Baptists also give thanks to God for babies and pray God's Blessing on them. They do this through a service of Infant Thanksgiving and Dedication. Baptism is left till later as they believe that Baptism is a sign of becoming a Christian and a person can only become a Christian when they are old enough to make the decision for themselves.

What Happens?

Put simply, it is when a person who has become a Christian acts out what that means through a special service that has great significance. They stand in a pool of water and after they have promised to follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour they are lowered backwards into the water and then raised up. All this takes place as part of an act of worship. Most Baptist Churches have pools built in, but sometimes Baptisms take place in the sea, rivers, or even the local baths.

Why be Baptised?

1. Jesus told his followers to be baptised. He made it clear that his followers were to baptise those who believed in him. (Matthew 28 v19)
2. Jesus himself was baptised, and so gave us an example to follow.
3. The first Christians quickly made baptising new believers a normal and common practice.



What does Baptism mean?

Baptism is a sign that has several meanings.

1. We are united with Jesus as we identify with what he went through.
2. We have died to an old way of life without God and have been raised to a new life with Him. Being laid under the water is a sign of being dead and buried to a life without Jesus. As we come up out of the water it is a sign that we are set on a new life with Him.
3. We have been made clean from all the wrong (sin) in our lives.
4. There has been a change in our lives—now we follow God.
5. We are publicly standing for Jesus and by our actions saying that we **believe** and **belong** to Him.
6. We belong to a new community—we join those who belong to Jesus—the Church.

Believer's Baptism

Northern Baptist Association
www.thenba.org.uk
The Baptist Union of Great Britain
www.baptist.org.uk