

What is Baptism?



Baptism was instituted and commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:19. It's a washing—not physical washing like taking a bath and cleaning off dirt—but a **spiritual washing**, cleaning off sin.



In Baptism, we use **ordinary water combined with God's Holy Word**. The water is a physical thing we can see and touch that connects us to our holy God. In baptism, our sinful self is made holy and new.

LOVED. SAVED. CHANGED.



WE ARE LOVED. We receive God's gifts through Baptism not because of anything we've done, but because he loves us. On our own, we are dead in our sins, separated from God (Ephesians 2:1–3), but in spite of our sinfulness, God comes to us in love.



WE ARE SAVED. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have paid the price for the sin of all humanity. Baptism carries that grace to each of us, giving the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation (Ephesians 2:4–9).



WE ARE CHANGED. In Baptism, God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to live within us and do the work of making us new. Being changed is a daily thing. By the Holy Spirit's power, we daily leave behind our old, sinful self and live a new life by faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 2:20).



Baptism is for everyone. Because faith is God's gift to give, everyone can receive it—from babies to grandparents and everyone in between. God's gifts are for everyone.