

WATER BAPTISM

God's Command:

Matthew 28:18-20 make disciples, baptize and teach.

Mark 16:15-18 he who believes and is baptized shall be saved

Salvation isn't synonymous with eternal life:

1 Thess 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be *preserved complete*, (Gk. = *sozo*), without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spirit salvation = eternal life

1 Corinthians 1:21 the gospel saves those who believe.

Matthew 1:21 Jesus came to save people from their sins

Body salvation = healing

Matthew 9:22 Jesus said to the woman with the issue of blood " your faith has saved you."

Soul salvation = mind, emotion and will

1 Peter 1:21 baptism now saves you

The Law of Identification:

E. W. Kenyon puts it this way, "Baptism in this sense is equivalent to marriage. When the wife puts on marriage she takes her husband's name and enters into her husband's possessions and has legal rights to her husband's home. When the believer is baptized he puts on all that is in Christ. He not only puts on the name, but takes his legal right and privileges in Christ."

Gal 2:20 — "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

Rom 6:4-10 — "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also being the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Rom 8:3-4 — "For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

Gal 5:24-26 — "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."

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Gal 6:14-15 — “But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”

Col 2:11-15 — “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

Baptism is a funeral:

Crucified with Him = Gal 2:20; 5:24; 6:14

Buried with Him = Romans 6:3, 4; Col 2:12

Raised with Him = Eph 2:4-6; Romans 6:4, 10, 11; Col 2:12

The prerequisites for water baptism:

Faith = Acts 8:12; 10:47

Repentance = Acts 2:38

Baptism is a circumcision of the heart:

Col 2:11 — “and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ”

Rom 2:28-29 — “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

Gal 5:6 — “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.”

Gal 6:15 — “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”

Phil 3:3 — “for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”

The power of baptism:

Power over sin

Romans 6:1-11

v - 6 no longer slaves to sin.

v - 11 consider yourself dead to sin.

Gal 5:24 — “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

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Power over the influences of the world:

Gal 6:14 — “But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Power to live as a new creation:

Rom 6:4 — “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Rom 6:11 — “Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Gal 2:20 — “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Power to have a cleansed conscience:

1 Peter 3:18-21 — “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

Power over all devils:

Col 2:9-15 — “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

How we baptized at Church Upon the Rock:

1. After you believe. (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:9)
2. Children may be baptized after they believe. We do not baptize children but dedicate them to the Lord.

What is baby/child dedication?

The Israelites brought their eight-day-old children to the priest for blessing. Hannah (1 Sam 1:24-28) brought her long-awaited son Samuel to the priest Eli, to dedicate him to the Lord.

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Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple for his dedication.

We recognize that salvation only comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not passed on to a child through dedication. Parents commit to raise their children by modeling godly principles and with the desire that one day, the child will receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Child dedication is different than infant baptism or christening. While these rites are significant for a variety of faiths, it is the practice of Church Upon the Rock to dedicate children. Believing that it would ensure salvation, the early church baptized infants in case they would die before old enough to develop a personal faith in Jesus Christ. They believed that, through baptism, the infant would be assured of a place in heaven.

We at Church Upon the Rock believe, however, that all infants are destined for heaven should they die before they are old enough to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We also believe the Bible teaches that baptism should take place after a person has made a personal choice to follow Jesus Christ.

3. In the name of Jesus.

There are six references of the disciples baptizing in the book of Acts. In every situation they always baptized in the name of Jesus (2:38; 8:12,13,16, 10:47,48; 19:1-5).

We choose not to be contentious or dogmatic. If a person wishes to be baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20), we will oblige them.

4. By immersion:

The word *baptism* was not a religious word in the New Testament era. It meant to make fully wet or immerse (Matthew 7:4,8; Heb 6:2; 9:10). Another New Testament word that could have been used for baptism is *rhantismos*. This word means to sprinkle and is used many times in the Bible (Hebrews 9:13,19,21; 10:22; 11:28; 12:24; 1 Pt 1:2).

5. Can a person being re-baptized?

Occasionally, we will re-baptize when a person:

- is trusting in infant baptism.
- was sprinkled after becoming a Christian.
- is returning from a time of backsliding.