

BAPTISM



**Buried with Christ,
Raised to walk
in the newness
of LIFE.**



**DUDLEY
RUTHERFORD**

Baptism

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Dedicated to the 3,000 people
who were baptized on the day
of Pentecost in Acts 2:38-41.

They were the first generation
of believers who stepped forward
to declare their belief that
Jesus Christ is Lord.

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Introduction

Jesus, in some of His final words to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven, put forth the marching orders for His followers that have reverberated throughout the centuries for the past 2,000 years. His instructions were simple, clear, pertinent, and orderly. First, His disciples were to go into all the world and make disciples of every nation. This immediately gives them the depth and width of their calling. No border or nationality would be granted an exemption from their travels. They were to cross every known social and ethnic barrier and focus on reaching all of mankind on Christ's behalf. There would be no room for prejudices or excuses.

The second step of the mandate was crystal clear: Anyone whom they had the privilege of meeting, the disciples were to lead into a saving relationship with Jesus and they were to baptize every single believer into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. No disciple was exempt. If you wanted to be a follower of Jesus, you were to be baptized into His name.

Lastly, after the disciples baptized new believers, they then were to teach them all that Jesus had ever instructed. This means your baptism isn't the end of your journey; it is the beginning of your journey.

Jesus' departing instructions are known as, "The Great Commission," and are found in Matthew 28:18-20. After reading this, we discover in Acts 1 that Jesus then ascended into Heaven, with the disciples all staring at Him as He disappeared into the clouds.

The Bible says in Acts 1:11 that while they were looking up into the sky, two angels appeared. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

In other words, “Why are you wasting your time here gawking at the heavens? You only have so much time before the Lord returns in like manner. Shouldn’t you get busy obeying His final command to reach the entire world?”

And in case you don’t know what happens next, the disciples did in fact heed the angels’ words, and the entire Book of Acts records for us the eagerness and intentionality of those first century disciples as they traveled the known and unknown world, striving to disciple and baptize every person they could reach.

Little did we know that today, 2,000 years later, the Church would grow so indifferent to the Great Commission as well as (excuse the pun) watering down the importance of being baptized. Well, there is good news for those of you reading this book, because we are going to examine the true spiritual blessing of being baptized into the name of Jesus. This booklet is the result of a life-long study of what exactly it means to be baptized and what happens when you are baptized.

If you have never been baptized, or if you’ve ever wondered what the purpose is for someone being baptized, then this study is for you. This will be a five-week journey through the Scriptures that cuts through all the confusion. And hopefully in the end, we will see you in the baptism as you are buried with Christ and are raised to walk in the newness of life.

Chapter 1

WHO, WHAT, & WHY OF BAPTISM

We want to start off by asking and answering some of the most basic questions concerning baptism. We know that Christians in the New Testament were baptized as a part of their faith. But let's look closely at who was first baptized, what it means to be baptized, and the pertinent question of "Why do I need to be baptized?"

_____ **was First Baptized.**

After walking approximately _____ miles, our Lord and Savior, _____, was baptized by John the Baptist in
Matthew 3:13-17.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

v. 13 **He did it of his own _____.**

v. 14 **He would not be _____.**

v. 15 **He did it to fulfill all _____.**

v. 16-17 **His father (God) was _____.**

Digging Deeper: What is the significance of Jesus’ baptism?

To _____ His ministry.

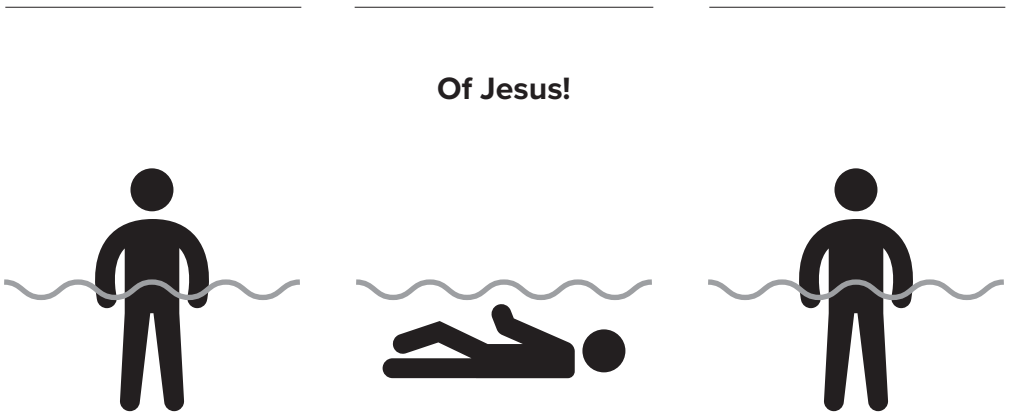
To set _____ an _____.

To _____ His Heavenly Father.

Christian Baptism is a Picture of...

Romans 6:3-5

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.



Greek word: _____ ➡ To fully _____

Where did sprinkling originate?

- _____ in _____
- _____ in _____

Baptism is clearly a picture of a _____.

Christ _____ Baptism in the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Marching Orders of the Church

- _____.
- Make _____ of all nations (to teach them about Jesus).
- _____ them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Teach them to _____ everything I have ever commanded you.
(Review 1 – 2 – 3)

There isn't any doubt that every person who follows Christ is to be baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These are the marching orders of the Church in the first century. They were following Jesus' instructions to evangelize the entire world.

Chapter 2

MORE THAN GETTING DUNKED

Something _____ Happens.

- Nothing magical about the _____.
- Something divine happens when you're _____.
- Not considered a “ _____ ” if done for the right reason.

To _____ men or to _____ God.

To _____ godly or to _____ God.

To _____ faith or to _____ in faith.

Eight Consequential Connections.

1. Following _____ example. Matthew 3:3-16

You really _____ need another reason other than this reason.

2. Obeying Jesus' _____. Matthew 28:18-20

3. Symbolic of the _____, _____, and _____. Romans 6:3-5

- Portraying your _____ in the D-B-R.
- Presenting your personal desire to
 - › _____ to self.
 - › _____ the old you.
 - › have the new you _____.
- Preaching your _____.

4. Action that requires _____. James 4:10

This is the first step in _____!

5. It's Peter's instructions on _____.

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- _____ and be _____.

It is _____.

- Every one of you – no _____.
- In the name of Jesus. You are _____ to Jesus.
- For the forgiveness of sins. All _____.
- Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – the _____ of God.
- For _____ generations. (v. 39-40)

Acts 2:39-40

³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

6. How You're _____ to God's Family.

The 3,000 repented, immersed, baptized, forgiven, Spirit-filled believers in Acts 2:38-42 _____ themselves to four things:

- Apostles' teaching - _____.
- To fellowship - _____.
- To breaking of bread - _____.
- To prayer - From their _____.

7. Intrinsically _____ to Your _____.

- Your faith leads you to be _____.
- Your faith is seen in your _____.
- Your _____ displays your faith.

Naaman Abraham Blind Man _____!

8. It's How You are _____ with Christ!

Illustration: Like a wedding.

Chapter 3

DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

- TV and radio preachers say _____.
- Denominational headquarters say _____.

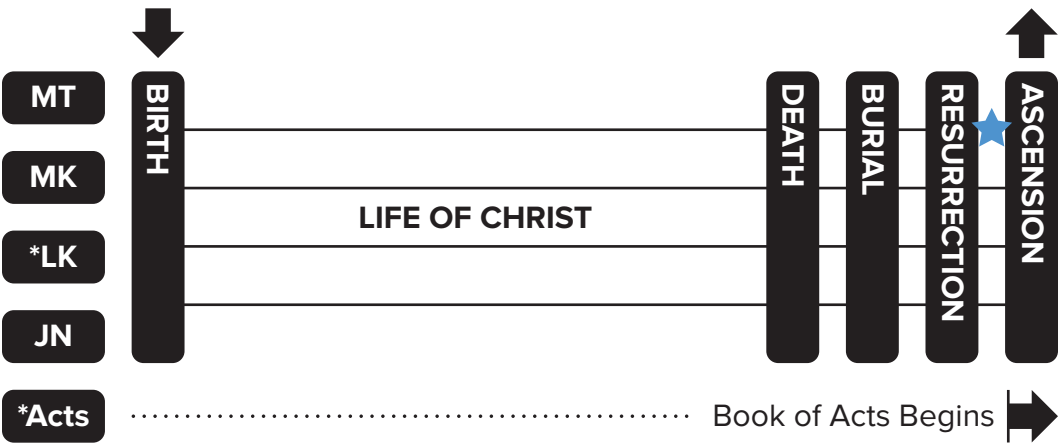
Possible Answers

Nothing to do with salvation.

It's how you're saved.

Let's Go to the Evidence

Four Biographies on the Life of Christ



★ Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20

1. Go. 2. Make disciples. 3. Baptize them. 4. Teach them to obey.

*Acts: First book after the _____.

History of the NT Church

(*Luke writes the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts.)

Acts is a written record of the Disciples' _____ of the Great Commission.

Church Growth as Seen in the Book of Acts

1:15	120
2:41	3,000
2:47	Daily conversions.
4:4	5,000 men.
4:14	More and more men and women were added.
6:1	The number of disciples was increasing.
6:7	The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased. Rapidly and a large number of priests joined the faith.
8:1-4	The persecuted Church scattered, and they preached the word wherever they went.
9:31	Church in Judea, Galilee and Samaria grew in numbers.
9:42	Many in Joppa believed in the Lord.
11:21	A great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.
11:24	A great number of people were brought to the Lord.
14:21	A large number of disciples were won.
16:5	The Church grew daily in strength and numbers.
17:4, 12	A large number of God-fearing Greeks and women joined.

Conversion Account	Believe	Repent	Confess	Be Baptized	Upon Baptism
3,000 Acts 2:37-41	v. 37, 41	v. 38		v. 38-41	Sins forgiven Holy Spirit.
Samaritans Acts 8:10-12	v. 12			v. 12	
Simon Acts 8:13	v. 13			v. 13	
Ethiopian Acts 8:26-39	v. 37		v. 37	v. 38	Rejoiced. v. 39
Saul Acts 9:1-19 Acts 22:6-16				9:18	Sins washed. 12:16
Cornelius Acts 10:1-48	v. 43			v. 48	Accepted by God. v. 35
Lydia Acts 16	v. 14			v. 15	Was judged to be faithful. v. 15
Jailer Acts 16	v. 31, 34			v. 33	Rejoiced. v. 34
Corinthians Acts 18	v. 8			v. 8	Baptized into one body. I Cor. 12:13
Ephesians Acts 19	v. 4			v. 5	Sanctified Cleared. Eph. 5:26

Chapter 4

PREREQUISITES FOR BAPTISM

Review _____



Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Sin by definition: Any time you _____ God.

Something that God asks you to do and you don't do.

Something He asks you not to do and you do it anyway!

_____ have _____.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

_____ separates us from _____.



Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The wages of sin is death.

Wages = Penalty, consequences, results, payment

_____ equals _____.



Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

_____ took our _____.

Hebrews 10:11-12

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

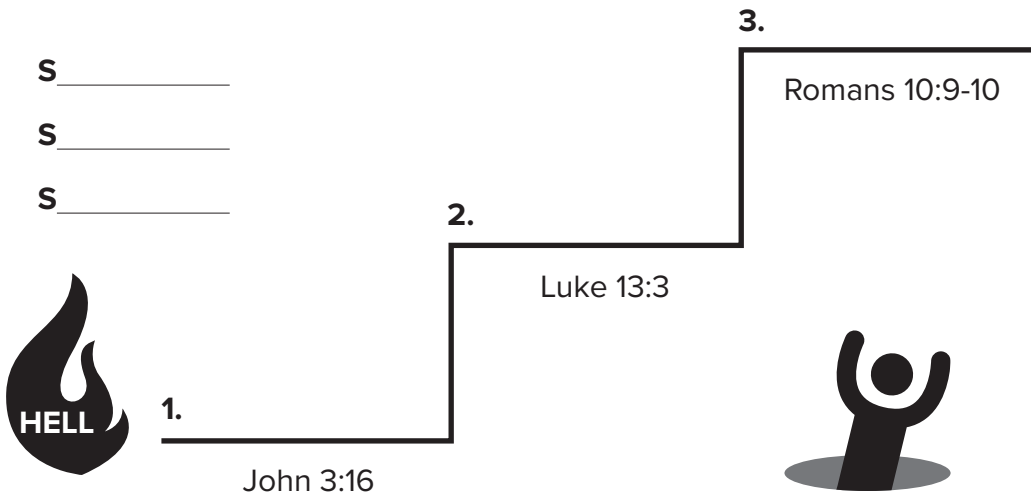


1. John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Luke 13:3

I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.



4. Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent
and be baptized, every
one of you, in the name
of Jesus Christ for the
forgiveness of your sins.
And you will receive the
gift of the Holy Spirit.”



5.

5. Revelation 2:10

Be faithful, even to the point of death,
and I will give you the crown of life.

4.

Acts 2:38

Two Things

1. _____ and _____

Two Reasons

2. _____ and _____

3. Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart
that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess
and are saved.

Confess with your mouth _____ is _____.

Lord = _____ = _____ = _____



= _____ = _____ = _____

Reasons NOT to be Baptized

1. If you're not a believer in Jesus Christ.
2. If you're not repentant.
3. If Jesus is not your Lord.
4. If it's someone else's decision.
5. If you're trying to earn your way into Heaven.
6. If you don't want to be saved.
7. If you don't want to go to Heaven.
8. If you don't want to have your sins forgiven.
9. If you don't want God's presence in your life.
10. If you don't want to be a part of the Church.
11. If you don't believe in the atonement found in the blood of Christ.
12. If you'd rather keep following man-made religions and traditions.
13. If you don't believe it means anything.
14. If you don't want to follow Jesus' example.
15. If you don't want to follow Jesus' command.
16. If you believe there are other ways to be saved other than by Christ alone.
17. If you don't believe in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Reasons to be Baptized

1. To follow Jesus' example. Mt. 3:13-17
2. To obey His command for baptism. Mt. 28:18-20
3. If you believe in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection. Rom. 6:3-5
4. If you are a believer and trust personally that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Mk. 16:16
5. If you have repented and turned to Jesus. Acts 2:38
6. If you have confessed that Jesus is Lord. Rom. 10:9-10
7. If you want to follow the conversion stories in the Book of Acts. (See page 19)
8. If you want to be raised again to new life. Col. 2:12
9. If you want your sins forgiven. Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16
10. If you want to be a part of the Church. Eph. 4:4-5
11. If you want to be clothed with Christ. Gal. 3:27
12. To pledge a good conscience toward God. I Pet. 3:21

Chapter 5

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

This chapter will teach you how to share your faith. Once you have become a believer, it's only natural for you to want everyone else to experience a personal relationship with Christ as you have. Many believers love the Lord yet struggle with being effective in witnessing and telling others about Jesus. Let's dive in.

Motivating Principles

- See yourself as Christ's _____. II Cor. 5:20
- Have an understanding of _____. II Cor. 4:17-18
- Realize the _____. Mt. 16:26
- Be _____ like Jesus. Mt. 9:35-38

Have a Method that Works for You

- Share your _____ testimony.
 - › Your life before you met Jesus
 - › How you met Jesus
 - › Your life since you started following Jesus
- Share the _____ road.
 - › Romans 3:23 All have sinned
 - › Romans 6:23 Penalty for sin is death
 - › Romans 5:8 Christ died for us
 - › Romans 10:9-10 Confess Jesus as Lord
 - › Romans 6:3-5 Be baptized into Christ
- Share the A B C D Plan.
 - › A_____ you're a sinner. Romans 3:23
 - › B_____ in Jesus. John 3:16
 - › C_____ Jesus as Lord. Romans 10:9-10
 - › D_____ your belief in the D-B-R by being baptized into Christ. Romans 6:3-5

Share this _____. (See Chapter 4)

Share your _____.

Learn to Ask Questions

1. Do you have a church home?
2. Are you a person of faith?
3. Would you like to join our Life Group?
4. Would you like to start a Bible study?
5. Do you own a Bible?
6. Would you like me to get you a Bible?
7. Have you heard an explanation of what it means to be a Christian?
8. If you died today, do you think you'll make it to Heaven?
9. If God asked you why He should let you in, what would you tell Him?
10. Would you like to go to church with me?
11. Do you know the difference between Jesus being Lord and Jesus being Savior?
12. Would you like to become a follower of Christ?
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Become a Seed-Planter

1. Pray for five people every day.
2. Invite someone to church every day.
3. Write notes of encouragement and include a Bible verse.
4. Give someone a Bible.
5. Share your bulletin with a non-churchgoer.
6. Use your social media feed to honor Christ.
7. Support our Lift Up Jesus media ministry (LiftUpJesus.com)
8. Post our online church services on your social media.
9. Share church website with people who may be interested.
10. Ask people if they need prayer.
11. Reflect Christ everywhere you go.
12. Put up a Bible verse in your workspace.
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Bible Verses Referring to Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38-41

Acts 8:12-13

Acts 8:38-40

Acts 9:18

Acts 10:48

Acts 16:15

Acts 18:8

Acts 19:4

Acts 22:16

Romans 6:3-5

Galatians 3:27

Ephesians 4:4-5

Colossians 2:12

Access the Baptism Sermon Series

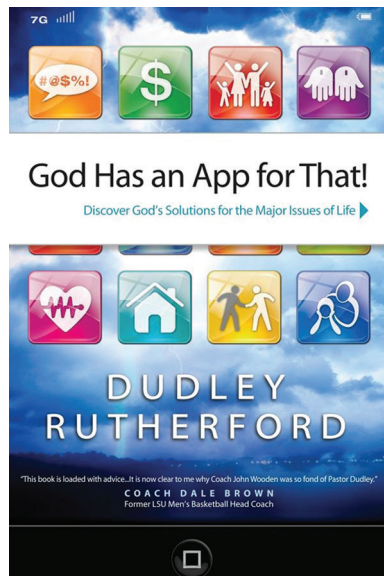
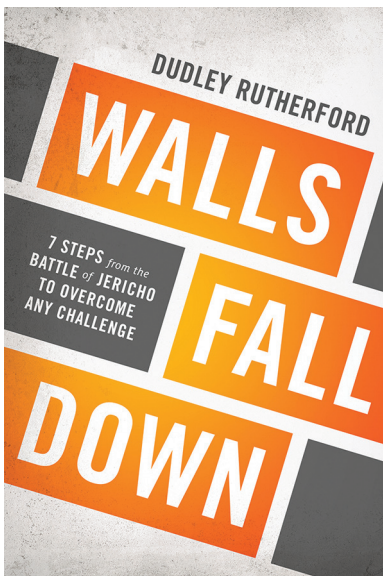
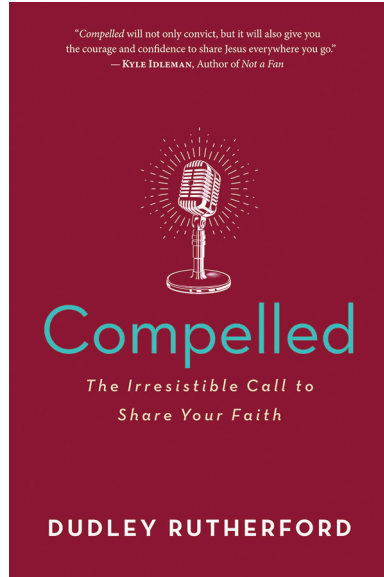
We encourage you to watch and follow along with the entire *Baptism* sermon series, which is available completely for free at www.LiftUpJesus.com. Pastor Dudley Rutherford leads you through five excellent teachings on baptism that accompany this booklet.



Visit www.liftupjesus.com/watch-listen/recent-messages/ or simply head over to www.LiftUpJesus.com and click “Recent Messages at Shepherd Church” on the top navigation. Scroll down to “OTHER MESSAGES IN THE SERIES ARCHIVE” and select the *Baptism* series from the icons below it. The series is dated February 19 – March 20, 2022. You will be blessed, and please share this booklet and the series with everyone you can!

Other Books by Dudley Rutherford

We invite you to check out these others books by Dudley Rutherford to enrich your walk with Christ! Please visit <https://www.liftupjesus.com/product-category/books/> to learn more!



This booklet is the result of a life-long study of what exactly it means to be baptized and what happens when you are baptized. If you have never been baptized, or if you've ever wondered about the purpose of baptism, then this study is for you. This will be a five-week journey through the Scriptures that cuts through all the confusion and honors Jesus' immeasurably important instructions to His disciples and to all believers in Matthew 28:18-20.

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Dudley Rutherford is the lead pastor of the 12,000-member Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch, California. His congregation has been called the most racially diverse church in Los Angeles by the city's mayor. Dudley's online teaching ministry is called LiftUpJesus.com, which is viewed in more than 75 countries worldwide each week. He is also the founder of DreamofDestiny.com, a ministry designed to foster ethnic diversity within the Christian Church. Dudley has authored several books, such as One Thing: Rediscover a Simpler Faith in our Complicated World; Compelled: The Irresistible Call to Share Your Faith; Walls Fall Down; and God Has an App for That. Dudley and his amazing wife, Renee, have three adult children and reside in Porter Ranch, CA.