

OUR MISSION

Commissioned with Purpose - Empowered by the Spirit - Led by Christ
Called to Repentance - Baptized into New Life - Committed to Community

Baptized into New Life

Baptism is the sign of new life in Jesus Christ. Ritual baptism was very common in Jesus' day and was part of the daily religious practices of the temple in Jerusalem. The unique thing about the introduction of Christian baptism was that it was done "in the name of Jesus." Those who were baptized in Jesus' name were pledging to live for him. God promises to give the gift of his Holy Spirit to all those who are baptized in this way.

Acts 2:37-39

What Should We Do?

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Cut to the Heart

Whenever we hear the message of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit begins to work within us. One of the ways the Spirit works is called "Conviction." It is a sharp sense of our separation from God and call to return.

Repentance is Required

Repentance is scandalous in modern western culture because it requires us to admit that we have sinned against God. But repentance is required for us to progress.

Baptism is a Sign

Baptism is a sign of our response to the work God is doing within us. It is a joining together of the spiritual and physical in an act that marks our decision to leave worldly ways and follow after Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is God's Promise

The Holy Spirit is God's promise to everyone who repents and receives the sign of baptism. This is nothing we do; it is what God does for us.

APPLICATION *for Daily Living*

I ~~was~~ ^{am} Baptized

We often think of our baptism as a thing of the past, but the new life that Jesus offers is ongoing. The Holy Spirit continues his work in us day-by-day. A better way of thinking is to say, “I **am** baptized,” that is, I am living the baptized life by dying to the ways of this world and living for God!

If you are not baptized and would like to be, talk to any one of our staff and join us for the next “Believer’s Baptism Class!”

SCRIPTURE *for further Study*

Read about the connection between baptism and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in **Romans 6:1-14**

QUESTIONS *for discussion*

Who has been most influential in your spiritual journey?

Have you ever felt “cut to the heart?”

What does it mean to you to live a baptized life here and now?



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*
