

WATER BAPTISM

NEW HOPE LAS VEGAS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Water Baptism is an important decision in every Believer's life, as they take the next step in growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

A general definition for the word baptism is "a rite of washing with water as a sign of religious purification and consecration." This rite was practiced frequently in the Old Testament. It signified purity or cleansing from sin and devotion to God. Baptism comes from the Greek "Baptizo", which means to immerse, dip or plunge. Water Baptisms are done by fully immersing the person into water.

Baptism is significant in that it represents the forgiveness and cleansing from sin that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ set the example for us to follow by being water baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). He completed this inward righteousness by an outward act of obedience and it was through this act that Jesus entered into an active life of ministry. Jesus means "God has become salvation". Christ means "the anointed (chosen) one". It reveals God's mission to save and deliver mankind through Jesus Christ, the anointed and chosen one.

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

Water Baptism is only for those who have been "Born Again" by God's Spirit. It's not for babies, unbelievers or persons who can't make a commitment to Christ. It serves as a visible seal and assurance that those being baptized had already received salvation through Jesus Christ and have experienced repentance and forgiveness.

Water Baptism is...

1. An Act of Obedience

Water Baptism is an outward **act of obedience** for the believer. It should be preceded by repentance, which simply means "change." It is turning

from our sin and selfishness to serve the Lord. It means placing our pride, our past and all of our possessions before the Lord. It is giving the control of our lives over to Him.

Being baptized in water does not make us a Christian. We become Christians when we repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Baptism is an outward act (work) of obedience by which the Christian believer fulfills and completes the inward righteousness received by Jesus Christ death, burial and resurrection.

2. Identifies Your Life as a Believer In Christ

Water Baptism **identifies** the believer with **Christ** in His death, burial and resurrection. It is symbol of the redeeming work that Christ did for us and in us as Believers.

“When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure--the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.” Colossians 2:11-12 (NLT)

“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.” Romans 6:4 (NIV)

Death - “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

Resurrection - “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. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.” Romans 6:4-5 (NIV)

“He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus. Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.” Romans 6:10-13 (NLT)

Water Baptism also **identifies** the believer with the **Godhead** – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We get baptized in the “Name of Jesus” and take on the “Name of the Family of God” as a Christian.

“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.” Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

Cleansing - “And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” I Peter 3:21 (NIV)

“But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” I Corinthians 6:11 (NIV)

3. A Pledge to God

Water Baptism is a public act and an outward expression of an inward pledge by us to live our lives for and before God. It is just like a wedding ceremony, as a couple expresses a formal public commitment to one another as husband and wife. It is also a public testimony - the outward confession of an inward experience. In baptism, we stand before witnesses confessing our identification with the Lord.

4. Being United with the Church Family

When you are born into this world, you take on the last name of your family. This makes you identify with your natural family. The same with your spiritual family when you become “born again”, you become a Christian (Christ follower). We become united together with our New Hope Las Vegas church family and find our identity together as Believers of the faith.

Water Baptism Ceremony:

1. The person being baptized goes into the water with the person(s) doing the water baptism. Normally, we ask the Church Leaders to do the water baptizing of church members. People usually wear a swimsuit under their shirt. **A dark t-shirt and shorts is preferable when getting baptized.**
2. **There is limited space in the baptismal tank. One person at a time will get baptized. Only Married Couples can get baptized together. Children 9 years old and over can get baptized.**
3. We usually take a “before picture” for the baptism certificate.
4. The person introduces themselves and shares why they have decided to get water baptized today.
5. The person doing the water baptism first prays for the person being baptized.
6. The person is baptized “By the confession of your faith, we baptize you in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which is in our Lord Jesus Christ”. Then goes under the water of baptism. The person can hold their nose if they wish, before going into the water.
7. We also take an “after picture” for the baptism certificate.
8. After the person comes out of the water and gets dried off (bring a towel), the prayer team will cover the person in prayer.

9. The person getting water baptized will receive a certificate to commemorate this special day in 2 weeks after the event.

Questions? Email us at Contact@newhopelasvegas.com