



BAPTISM: Immersed in God

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!

Matthew 3:11

When someone says the word “baptism”, we often think about the physical act or ritual where someone is either dunked or sprinkled with water. People often have a sense that something spiritual is going on but may have a hard time putting words to it. The ritual is a *symbol* for something that is indeed powerfully spiritual. The Bible describes baptism as a life-changing event, one where we surrender to God and commit to trusting Him with all our heart.

Baptism actually means “immersion”. It means to be totally immersed in God’s love, truth, purpose, joy, power, in essence.... God Himself. Now the Bible teaches that **all** of God’s Creation is immersed in His Presence (Psalm 139:7, Isaiah 6:3, Acts 17:28). God is the glue that holds everything together! Just as Jesus identified Himself as “life”, we get a picture also of God as the very source of life. God is our Source, a river of life that flows through all of creation, including you and me. So, in order to understand baptism properly, we need to see that God is already immersing us with a faithful, relentlessly loving Presence (see Matt. 5: 45). A big part of experiencing baptism is learning to **recognize** this and **apply** this to our daily lives. It’s a Big Truth that changes everything!

Here are some important Biblical elements of baptism for you to consider:

- **Baptism is something Jesus wants us to do.** It’s about entering into a place of surrender and openness to God’s new reality (a.k.a. the Kingdom). It’s about living as “disciples” (learners) who learn to think and act from God’s immersing fire. (Matt. 3: 11, Matthew 28:19-20)
- **Baptism is leaving the old, ego-controlled life behind and taking on the new, surprising, and generously loving life of Jesus.** We make a conscious decision to stop operating out of a self-centered lifestyle. No longer can we see ourselves as independent or
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separate from others or our environment. We are washed clean from the stagnant, self-centered life and dynamically connected to the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-6, 1 Peter 3:20-21).

- **Baptism is entering into God’s Unity.** God connects all things and is connected to all things. When we surrender to the flow of His Spirit, we begin to experience this connection or unity. We step into a new reality where we are never alone and God can speak to us through any circumstance. That’s one reason why the Church is to be a community of unconditional love and acceptance. It is from this experience that we can trust and grow into the “new creation” God has for us (Romans 8: 38-39, 2 Corinthians 5: 14-19, Ephesians 4:1-6).
- **Baptism is a full participation in the life of God.** Jesus promised that we would do even greater things than He (John 14: 12) and the apostle Paul encouraged his readers to walk in the fullness of God’s spirit. As we do more fully walk in God’s Spirit, we experience some wonderful results, including increased peace, joy, wisdom, generosity, happiness, and purpose. Baptism is a lifestyle transformation! (Romans 8: 15-16, 1 Corinthians 3: 21-23, Gal. 5: 22-26, Eph. 1: 18-23).

We were created for baptism! It is thriving in the fire of abundant living granted by Jesus Himself! This is living life as the grand adventure it was meant to be!

If you are interested in being baptized, as a symbol of your commitment to living in God’s immersing Presence, let us know. We can talk about it. Don’t miss out on the best life ever!



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