

## *Important Questions About Baptism*

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1.) Is baptism the way to heaven? There's only one way to find forgiveness from a holy God and that's through faith in Jesus Christ. *When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.* (Titus 3:4-7)

2.) If baptism doesn't save, why should I be concerned about it? Reading the Bible regularly, praying daily, attending a local church don't save us either but we all recognize their importance. Jesus Christ commanded that each of His followers be baptized. *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 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.* (Matthew 28:10, 20)

3.) My parents had me baptized as an infant. Isn't that good enough? What your parents did was an expression of their faith. Baptism is an expression of your own personal faith and follows salvation. *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized...* (Acts 2:41)

4.) I was baptized by sprinkling as an adult. FCC baptizes by immersion. Isn't my heart attitude more important than the method? Yes it is. It would be meaningless to be baptized by immersion if your heart wasn't right with God. On the other hand, God very carefully inspired every word of scripture. The Greek New Testament consistently uses the word *baptizo* which clearly means "to dip or plunge."

Baptism shows identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* (Romans 6:3,4)

That identification is impossible to show through sprinkling or pouring. Without immersion we don't really have "baptism" (*baptizo*).

5.) Will baptism help strengthen my walk with God? Absolutely. When we obey God it helps bring us closer to Him. But the real benefit in baptism comes as we allow it to be a marker in our life to remind us that we have died to sin and are living a new life. *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.* (Romans 6:11,12)

Have you personally put your trust in Christ to save you? If so, the next step in being a disciple is to be baptized. Don't put it off.

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*But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.* Acts 8:12