

## ***BELIEVER'S BAPTISM***

The word “baptize” literally means “to dip under” or “to immerse”. It also has a secondary meaning “to dip into dye” which has the metaphorical idea of identification.

Baptism always has the KEY idea of IDENTIFICATION. In other words, it testifies to and illustrates the union we now have of being “in Christ”.

### **Two important points:**

1) **Baptism** is distinct from the **gospel** message.

**1 Corinthians 1:17 (NKJV)** For Christ did **not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel**, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

**Romans 1:16 (NKJV)** For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**, for it is the power of God to **salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2) Baptism (without exception in the N.T.) **follows** believing the gospel.

**Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)** “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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**Acts 2:38 (NKJV)** Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for [because of] the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:41 (NKJV)** Then those who **gladly received his word were baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

**Acts 8:12 (NKJV)** 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 8:36-37 (NKJV)**

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. **What hinders me from being baptized?**”

37 Then Philip said, **“If you believe with all your heart, you may.”** And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**Acts 18:8 (NKJV)** Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, **hearing, believed and were baptized.**

### **BAPTISM AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE**

**Acts 10:47-48 (NKJV)**

47 **“Can anyone forbid water,** that these should not be baptized who have **received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”**

48 And he **commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

The consistent pattern in the New Testament is that of “Believer’s Baptism.” We first believe and are saved, and then baptism follows as a testimony to our faith.