

— WATER BAPTISM —

River of Life Assembly of God

What is water baptism?

Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward change. Just before Jesus returned to heaven, He commanded His followers to preach the gospel to all people and to baptize believers (**Matthew 28:19**). Baptism is a sign to everyone watching that he or she has accepted Jesus as Savior and that he or she plans to obey Jesus and live to please Him.

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who is sorry for his or her sins, repents, and believes in Jesus as Savior should be baptized. There is no age limit for baptism. When a person is saved and understands what baptism means, he or she should be baptized.

Does baptism save me?

No. Water baptism does not give us salvation. The Bible teaches that we can only be saved by repenting of our sin and believing on Jesus as Savior (**Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10**). If a person does not repent and believe, it does no good to be baptized. Water does not wash away sin— only the blood of Jesus can take away our sins.

What does “baptism by immersion” mean?

The New Testament was first written in Greek. The Greek word for baptize means “to go down under, to dip, to submerge.” Water baptism represents our identification with Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (**Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18**).

Baptism by immersion is symbolic of putting our sinful nature to death and burying it (going under the water) and then becoming spiritually alive/resurrected (coming out of the water).

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If baptized as an infant, do I need to be baptized again?

Maybe. Keep in mind that the act of being baptized does not save you (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Baptism is an outward sign (declaration) of an inward change.

There are instances in which you may want to consider being baptized again:

- Baptism without scriptural understanding- you did not know nor understand the significance of being baptized. It was a decision of your parent(s) or guardian(s) but not an intentional decision of your own.
- Baptism without repentance- your previous baptism was an act of “works” rather than an acceptance of “grace.” You were baptized in order to be “saved” rather than to declare your salvation.
- A re-commitment and pledge to your faith in Jesus Christ- your previous baptism was some time ago, or if you wandered from the faith and recently made a decision to recommit your life to Christ, you may want to consider being baptized. A wedding vow renewal ceremony does not make me married, but it does emphasize my continued commitment to my marriage vows.

When Can I Be Baptized?

If you desire to be baptized in water or have questions about water baptism, call the church office (662-4582), email the church office (rol@gondtc.com), or talk to one of the Pastors., or complete a Response Card and check “I would like to get water baptized.”

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

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