

Date : 6 Jan 2019
Theme : Understanding the significance of Baptism
Key verse : *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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*
Matthew 28:19, 20

Introduction

Baptism, which is clearly commanded from Scripture for all believers, plays an important function from New Testament times onward.

1. Why is this command so important?

- a. Baptism is the believers' first **act of obedience** to follow Jesus
 - A step to say *I am sure about following Jesus*. Although we teach that assurance of salvation is based on the Word of God, we are still not sure until we act on God's Word. So *Romans 10:9-10* commands not just believing in the heart but confessing with our mouth. Baptism is the public confession of our inward faith.
- b. It is a conscious **shift in allegiance** to follow Jesus alone.
 - A step to obey the 1st commandment *I will have no other gods beside Jesus* (It will be witnessed before God and men, the cloud of witnesses in the spiritual realm and the kingdom of darkness.)
- c. It reduces the **danger of syncretism**
 - A step to be set free from bondages *I renounce all allegiance to spirits of my past*

2. What are the benefits of baptism?

- Boldness to speak the Word of God
 - ... repent and be baptised every one of you ... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ... Acts 2:38*
 - ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly ... Acts 4:31*
- God the Father was pleased when Jesus was baptised

3. Who / When / Where / How of baptism (Book of Acts)

- Who were baptised? New believers who professed faith in Christ
- Who baptised them?
The person who led the new believers to faith and discipleship. Since the Great Commission is given to all believers, every believer must make disciples and then obey by baptising those disciples
- When were they baptised? Soon after their confession of faith
- How were they baptised? By immersion *Acts 8:38*

Application (those who face challenges with family members)

- Understand the great value of the Kingdom of God
 - we reap the great benefits for ourselves and family from this act of honouring God. Example when Eli compromised in his choice to honour God by choosing his sons before God, God's Word to him was *I will honour those who honour Me and despise those who despise Me* *1 Samuel 2:30*
- Pray for teachable moments to discuss the reason for your hope in Christ with your loved ones. (To surface why there is no other Savior)
 - we inherit eternal life as the act of baptism signifies death to the old self and resurrection to a new life in Christ.

BC Values

1) I am caught by the Vision (to be fruitful) 2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2) I am committed to Cell Life Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

3) I am a Disciple (& I make Disciples)

Luke 9:23 *Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

John 15:8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

4) I am passionate about Spiritual disciplines

1 Timothy 4:8 *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Isaiah 55:8, 9 ⁸*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

5) I am submitted to spiritual Authority 1 Peter 5:5-6

⁵*Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* ⁶*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

6) I value life-long Relationships

Ruth 1:16 *But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*

Mark 3:14 *He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach*

7) I must be Equipped for battle Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

8) I will raise up the next Generation

Isaiah 58:12 (KJV) *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*

9) I will Reproduce leaders of 12

Mark 3:14,15 *He appointed twelve — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.*

Luke 12:42, 43 ⁴²*The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?" ⁴³It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.*

10) I will Extend the witness of my church

Isaiah 54:2 *Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.*

Luke 12:34 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

11) I will ACCOMPLISH my church goals

Philippians 3:14 *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 1:28 ²⁸*We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

12) I will invest TIME for the Great Commission

Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

