

# Water Baptism in Jesus' Name | A Biblical Overview

## What Is Water Baptism?

Biblical water baptism in Jesus' Name is more than just a symbol of our participation in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3–4); it is also a covenant act rooted in the authority and saving power of His Name. Under the New Covenant, salvation is not achieved through animal sacrifices or temple rituals but through Jesus Christ, the mediator of a better covenant (Hebrews 8:6).

Baptism in His Name is the moment when the believer calls upon the Name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9–11), invoking the only Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). The Name of Jesus carries the full weight of His redemptive authority—it is in His Name that sins are remitted (Acts 2:38), demons flee (Mark 16:17), and new life begins.

Baptism in Jesus' Name anchors the believer within the covenant promises sealed by His blood, for to be baptized into His Name is to be baptized into His very identity, receiving His righteousness, His Spirit, and His covenantal covering.

## Why Baptism in Jesus' Name?

In the Book of Acts—the historical record of the early church—**every recorded instance of baptism was performed in the Name of Jesus Christ.**

### Scriptural References:

1. **Acts 2:38**

*“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

► This was the response on the Day of Pentecost—the church's birth moment. The Apostle Peter commanded baptism in the Name of Jesus (not the titles of “Father, Son, & Holy Ghost)

2. **Acts 8:12, 16**

*“But when they believed Philip... they were baptized, both men and women... They had only been baptized in the **name of the Lord Jesus.**”*

► The Samaritan believers were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, showing consistency in apostolic practice.

3. **Acts 10:48**

*“And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord.**”*

► Cornelius and his Gentile household received the Holy Spirit, then were **commanded** to be baptized in Jesus' name.

4. **Acts 19:5**

*“When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**”*

► Paul re-baptized the Ephesian disciples in Jesus’ name after they had only received John’s baptism.

5. **Acts 22:16**

*“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and **wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**”*

► Paul recounts his conversion and baptism. Ananias instructed him to be baptized while invoking Jesus’ name.

## Summary:

Not once in the Book of Acts is anyone baptized with a different formula. The consistent apostolic pattern was **baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ**.

## Why the Early Church Immersed Believers in Water

### Biblical Reasons for Immersion:

1. **The Greek word for "baptize" is *baptizō***, meaning **to immerse, submerge, or dip**—not sprinkle or pour.

2. **Acts 8:38–39**

*“Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water... and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...”*

► The language implies full immersion—going **into** and **coming up out of** the water.

3. **Romans 6:3–5**

*“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...**”*

► Baptism mirrors **burial**, which is only symbolically fulfilled through **immersion**, not sprinkling.

4. **Colossians 2:12**

*“...buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith...”*

► Again, baptism is a **burial** and a **resurrection**, best represented by immersion.

# Baptism & the Gospel: Death, Burial, Resurrection

Water baptism is the believer's **personal participation in the Gospel**.

## The Gospel Defined:

### 1. 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

*"...that Christ died for our sins... He was buried... and He rose again the third day..."*

## Baptism's Connection:

- **Repentance** = Death to sin (Romans 6:2)
- **Baptism** = Burial with Christ (Romans 6:4)
- **Resurrection** = New life through the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:5, Acts 2:38)

## Paul's Explanation:

- **Galatians 3:27** – *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*
- **Romans 6:4** – *"We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead... we also should walk in newness of life."*

Baptism is **not symbolic only**; it is the moment of **spiritual union with Christ's death and resurrection**.

# The Name of Jesus: Essential to Salvation

## Why Jesus' Name?

- **Acts 4:12**  
*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- **Philippians 2:9–11**  
*"...God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name..."*
- The name of Jesus carries the **authority** and **power** for salvation, healing, and spiritual rebirth (see also **Mark 16:16–18, Luke 24:47**).

# What Happens at Baptism?

According to the Book of Acts and the broader New Testament, at baptism:

- Sins are **remitted** (Acts 2:38)
- A person is **united with Christ** (Romans 6:3–5)
- One **puts on Christ** (Galatians 3:27)
- It marks the **entry** into the New Covenant body of believers (Acts 2:41, 47)
- It prepares the way for receiving the **Holy Spirit** (Acts 2:38, 10:44–48, 19:5–6)

## Summary: The Apostolic Pattern

Event	Baptism Formula	Method	Reference
Day of Pentecost	In the name of Jesus Christ	Implied immersion	Acts 2:38–41
Samaria	In the name of the Lord Jesus	Implied immersion	Acts 8:12, 16
Ethiopian Eunuch	Not named, but clearly Jesus	Immersion	Acts 8:36–39
Cornelius' House	In the name of the Lord (Jesus)	Implied immersion	Acts 10:48
Disciples at Ephesus	In the name of the Lord Jesus	Implied immersion	Acts 19:5
Paul	Calling on the name of the Lord	Implied immersion	Acts 22:16

## Final Thoughts

The New Testament church, led by the apostles and empowered by the Holy Spirit, **consistently baptized new believers in the name of Jesus Christ by immersion**. This act was never treated as optional or merely symbolic. It was always:

- ◆ Obedient to the gospel
- ◆ A burial with Christ
- ◆ A washing away of sins
- ◆ A faith response to the saving power of the Name of Jesus

*“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”*

— **Colossians 3:17**