

Because Jesus commanded it.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 (Matt 28:19-20).

To identify with Jesus

Just as Christ died and rose again from the grave, we signify what we are dead to sin, that we are buried with him, and that we are now alive in Christ.

Baptism leads to greater blessings

Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

2. When should I get baptised?

As soon as you have believed and confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

Those who believed... were baptised... that day (Acts 2:41).

3. Where should I get baptised?

Where you are baptised isn't the issue, the issue is that you are baptised. Some have been baptised in the sea, rivers, swimming pools and church baptismal pools, to name but a few. At Destiny Church we have our own baptismal pool and the water is heated to make things as comfortable as possible.

4. Do I have to get baptised by Total Immersion?

Once more we look to Jesus. He went to be baptised by John in the river.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water... (Matt 3:16).

Every baptism in Scripture was by immersion

Then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptised him (Acts 8:38).

5. What are the requirements for baptism?

That you **believe in Jesus** and his message.

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptised (Acts 2:41)



DESTINY CENTRE

Destiny Church Tees Valley

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DESTINY CHURCH TEES VALLEY



DESTINY CENTRE

**Why
Baptism?**

Believe and Be Baptised

Jesus' death was no accident, it was part of God's plan for our salvation. He was crucified, God raised him from the dead. The great news is that Jesus conquered death and that unlike any other great leader of the past, Jesus Christ is alive today. Peter told the crowd,

"This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross (Acts 2:23)."

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36)."

Peter said that they must repent in order to be forgiven and that they were to be baptised:

Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38).

The Significance of Baptism

Today, we too must be baptised in order to show that our sin has been dealt with and that we have begun a new life in Jesus. Baptism proclaims Jesus' death and resurrection and it reminds us of the decision we made to follow Jesus. In the New Testament, as soon as people put their trust in Jesus, they were baptised as a sign of their new-found faith. Although it is a simple act, it still has profound meaning.

Baptism to be a sign of inward cleansing of sin:

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on his name (Acts 22:16).

It is also a sign of receiving spiritual life...

...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 (Titus 3:5).

It is linked to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

...don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a

Baptism means we are baptised into Christ himself.

For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ (Gal 3:27).

At Destiny Church people are baptised by immersion in water to signify that they have truly repented of their sins and believed in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 2:38).

Yet is also a pledge of allegiance to the church saying we are members of the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The Greek word for 'to baptise' means to 'dip' or to 'immerse' under water. The Greeks used it to describe the dyeing of a garment. It would be necessary to immerse the entire garment if it was to be completely dyed .

Immersion in water symbolises death (being buried in the water) and resurrection (coming back up out of the water). It is the outward expression of the death to sin and being raised to new life.

Why should we be baptised?

Jesus is our example so we ought to do what he did and obey his word to us. Jesus was baptised!

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised by John in the river (Mark 1:9).

Jesus didn't need to be baptised; however he gave us an example that we should follow in his steps. We don't become Christians by being baptised, we are baptised because we are Christians. Baptism demonstrates that we are walking in obedience to Jesus.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 (Matt 28:19-20).

Baptism is Jesus' command; it is not an optional extra. If we love him we will do what he tells us. *Jesus said:*

If you love me, you will obey what I command (John 14:15).

Roman soldiers swore an oath called the sacramentum, it signified his allegiance to the Roman. It bound the soldier to a life of loyalty and service to the Emperor. In time baptism became known as a sacrament.

And when you were baptised, it was the same as being buried with Christ. Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death (Col 2:12).

When a person becomes a Christian they promise to follow Jesus; baptism is an obedient step of dedication and should not be taken lightly. It needs to be taken thoughtfully and seriously. Vows made should be kept, and baptism signifies the leaving behind of the things that grieve Jesus and of our devotion to him.

Celebration of Baptism

Baptism is a time of great celebration, and for Destiny Church it is also a requirement of church membership. We believe that every member must have been baptised the way Jesus demonstrated.

At the start of the service the pastor explains the what baptism means. The person being baptised shares a few words about why they are wanting to be baptised. The person being baptised waits at the edge of the baptismal pool and when it is their turn they are introduced to the congregation and enter the baptism tank where two members of the congregation are waiting to baptise them.

They are then baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At that point they are briefly lowered under the water, they leave the pool, dry off and watch the others who are being baptised. Usually there is someone on hand to photograph the occasion and they receive a DVD of the service. Later they receive a certificate of baptism, signed by the pastor.

Friends and relatives are encouraged to gather around the pool during the baptism so they too can share in the special moment with their loved one.

Searching Questions about Baptism

1. Why should I be baptised?

To follow the example of Jesus.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised by John in the river (Mark 1:9).

It demonstrates that you are a believer

Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptised (Acts 18:8).