

Many stories can be told of how believers have been willing to lay down their lives for the privilege of following Jesus in baptism. Some have been alienated from their family home because of their decision that it is more important to obey God rather than man. Sometimes, to be baptised in the way that the Bible decrees as a sign of following Christ, is the means of witnessing to family and friends. It can lead them to enquire about the candidate's faith because of what they have seen.

### 1. What command did Jesus give His disciples?

**Matt 28:19,20** “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.”

**Fact:**

Jesus considered baptism a part of becoming one of His disciples.

### 2. How is baptism linked to salvation?

**Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, 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.

**Mark 16:16** Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Fact:**

The Bible is clear in many places that baptism is an important part of becoming a follower of Jesus

### 3. What does baptism do?

**1 Peter 3:20-22** .... In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. ...

**Fact:**

Just as it was not the water as such that saved Noah but God who saved him, so there is no virtue in baptism without saving faith. Behind baptism is the saving power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Only the shed blood of Christ removes our sin.

### 4. How did John the Baptist baptise?

**Matt 3:6** Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him *in* the Jordan River.

**Mark 1:5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him *in* the Jordan River.

**Fact:**

There is overwhelming evidence in the Bible that the mode of baptism used was that of complete immersion (John 3:23, Mark 1:9-10, Acts 8:38-39).

### Conclusion

The Bible tells us that to accept Jesus as our saviour we must repent and confess our sins. The Bible also says that baptism by immersion is a sign that an individual has accepted the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and has given up the old life of sin. Because Jesus want us to follow him, would you like to make a decision to be baptised in the near future?

## **Seventh-day Adventists Believe:**

*By baptism, we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings.*

### **Fundamental Belief No. 15**

## **Review Exercises**

**Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_, and teaching them to \_\_\_\_\_ everything I have \_\_\_\_\_ you. And surely I am with you \_\_\_\_\_, to the very \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “\_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_. And you will receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

**Mark 16:16** Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved, but whoever does \_\_\_\_\_ believe will be \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 3:20-22** to those who were \_\_\_\_\_ long ago when God waited \_\_\_\_\_ in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a \_\_\_\_\_ people, eight in all, were \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, and this water symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ that now \_\_\_\_\_ you also—not the removal of \_\_\_\_\_ from the body but the \_\_\_\_\_ of a clear \_\_\_\_\_ toward God. It saves you by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, who has gone into \_\_\_\_\_ and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

**Matthew 3:6** Confessing their \_\_\_\_\_, they were \_\_\_\_\_ by him \_\_\_\_\_ the Jordan River.

**Mark 1:5** The whole Judean \_\_\_\_\_ and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. \_\_\_\_\_ their sins, they were \_\_\_\_\_ by him \_\_\_\_\_ the Jordan River.

**Acts 8:38-39** And he gave \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went \_\_\_\_\_ the water and Philip \_\_\_\_\_ him. When they came \_\_\_\_\_ of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ Philip away, and the eunuch did not \_\_\_\_\_ him again, but went on his way \_\_\_\_\_.