

Why should I be baptized?

1. Jesus commanded us to be baptized.

“Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.”

Matthew 28:19-20

2. To follow Jesus' example.

“About that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.”

Mark 1:9

3. It demonstrates that I am submitting to Jesus.

“We can be sure that we know God if we obey His commands.”

1 John 2:3

What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12

Baptism illustrates my new life as a Christian.

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you, only your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

“When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Who should be baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

“Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have believed.

“Those who believe...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you decide to receive Christ into you life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you'll never feel “good enough”!

Why be baptized by immersion?

Jesus was baptized by immersion.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) “...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” Acts 8:38-39

The Greek word baptize means “to immerse or dip under water”. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

John Wesley... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

Martin Luther... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

Can my family and friends be baptized together?

Yes! If each person understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family or group tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on others to join you. This puts undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

What should I wear when I am baptized?

Women may wear shorts and a dark-colored top (with a swimsuit underneath if desired). Men may wear shorts or swim trunks and t-shirt. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. A hair dryer is optional.

Will I have to say anything?

At the beginning of the service, one of the pastors will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will be asked to recite the Apostles Creed together with the church, affirming your belief in the non-negotiables of the Christian faith. If you are comfortable with it, we will have someone read your testimony for you, then you will wait in line for your turn to be baptized. The Pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the water, dry off, and watch the others. Later you will receive your baptism certificate and picture. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

What about children?

At High Street we believe that when a person is old enough to understand what Jesus has done for them and when they are old enough to accept God's gracious gift, they are old enough to be baptized. There is a brief class that helps you as parents make sure children are ready to be baptized. If your child is interested in being baptized, contact the church office at 937.323.9686 and you will be directed to the next class.

What about infant baptism?

Infant baptism is similar to dedication. While we do not believe that infant baptism saves a child or makes him a Christian, we do believe that it signifies God's acceptance within the community of Christian faith on the basis of prevenient grace. In other words, we are anticipating your child's personal confession of faith in Jesus when he/she is old enough to understand what that means and that he/she will one day choose to publicly declare his/her faith by being baptized in obedience to Jesus' commands as his/her own personal decision. Your choice as parents to have your child baptized signifies your commitment to raise your child in such a way that you will model for them Godly principles with the desire that one day, your child will receive Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. Infant baptisms are usually performed on the same day we do child dedications. For more information, contact the church office at 937.323.9686.

What do I do if I want to be baptized at High Street?

Email info@highstreetnaz.org call the church office at 937.323.9686 or visit <http://www.highstreetnaz.org/baptism.php> to sign up for the next baptism.

What am I agreeing with when I am baptized at High Street?

Here are the non-negotiables of the Christian faith:

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell;
On the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty,
And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Church of Jesus Christ,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,

Questions?

Feel free to contact us for more information!

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TAKE THE NEXT STEP

in your

JOURNEY

BAPTISM

High Street
Church of the Nazarene
Helping People Move Toward Hope and Jesus Christ!