



## God's Test Of Loyalty

- Ephesians 4:4, 5**      There is only one way of Bible baptism.
- Matthew 28:18-20**    Christ's commission - "teach and baptize all nations."
- John 3:5**                We must be born of the water (baptized) and the Spirit to be saved.
- Romans 6:3-6**         Baptism is symbolic of a death to sins, burial of sins, guilt, and old life, and resurrection to a new life. We become a new creature following Jesus.
- Matthew 3:13-17**     Jesus was baptized by immersion (gently lowered beneath the water, and brought up again) to fulfill all righteousness.
- 1 John 3:10**            If we do not righteousness, we are not of God.
- John 3:23**              John baptized where there was much water.
- Acts 8:36-38**         Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch by immersion after he taught him.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:10** It's not enough to be taught alone, we must also love the truth!
- Acts 2:37, 38**         Willing, open-hearted people repented and were baptized (Prov. 28:13).
- Romans 6:11**         When baptized, we are dead to sin.
- John 3:1-6**             This is what being born again means!
- John 1:12, 13**         When baptized and born again, we receive power to do God's will.
- Acts 19:1-5**         Re-baptism is our privilege if we have been baptized in a way contrary to the Bible, or if we have learned more truth and desire to show our love and loyalty to follow Jesus into all truth.
- 2 Corinthians 11:2**    Baptism is like a wedding, we pledge to belong to Christ and love Him in sickness, health, rich or poor, and forsake all others. We will grow and make mistakes, but with Jesus, we grow together.

Galatians 3:27 We have put on Christ when baptized, now we are "Christians."  
 John 10:14-16 Jesus invites us into the one fold with one Shepherd.  
 Psalm 32:8 God desires to guide you.  
 Isaiah 58:11 The Lord shall guide you continually.  
 1 Corinthians 12:13 By one spirit we are all baptized into one body.  
 Acts 2:47 Lord added to the church daily.  
 Colossians 1:18 He is the head of the body, the church.  
 Acts 22:16 Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.  
 Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

### How to know God's will.

James 1:5 God promises wisdom when we ask.  
 Psalm 66:18 Search your heart for any known sins.  
 James 4:3 Analyze your motives to discover if what you desire is for God's glory.  
 Psalm 32:8 God will guide you.  
 Isaiah 58:11 The Lord shall guide you continually.  
 Psalm 119:9,10,11, 105, 133 Biblical decisions you are going to make, the Bible can guide you.  
 Proverbs 11:14, 15 Seek counsel from Godly Christian counselors who believe God's word.  
 Proverbs 23:26 Look for providence -divine-which way you should go.  
 Proverbs 23:27 Give your heart and observe God's way.  
 Ecclesiastes 8:5 Whosoever keeps my commandments shall feel no evil things.  
 Romans 8:28 All things work together for good to those who love God.  
 Psalm 90:12 Make the wisest decision possible believing God Himself is leading you.

### Steps for Baptism

1. Repent A genuine sorrow for sin.
2. Believe An acceptance of Jesus as both Savior and Lord.
3. Learn Instruction in the essentials of Biblical faith.

### **An individual may desire to be re-baptized if:**

- 1. They once were baptized and departed from Christ but now long to return.**
- 2. They are committed Christians who have discovered the truth of God's word, and desire to be part of his commandment keeping people.**
- 3. If they were never baptized by immersion like Jesus example.**

Baptism itself does not change the heart of man; it is a symbol of the change that has taken place. A man might be baptized without faith, without repentance, and without a new heart. He might even be immersed after the example of Jesus, but he would simply come up a wet sinner instead of a dry one--still without faith, without repentance, without a new heart. Baptism cannot make a new person. Neither can it change or regenerate anyone. It is the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that changes the heart in conversion. One must be born of the Spirit as well as born of water. In Matt 28:19, we are told to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. These are Jesus' words, and we consider them very sacred. In the book of Acts, we find the new believers were baptized in the name of Jesus. Identifying Jesus as the Christ and Messiah was present truth for the people of that day; therefore, it was crucial for them to be baptized in His name. We believe it is very important for today as well.

No one should be baptized unless he knows the truth of God, believes it, has repented and has experienced conversion. No baby could possibly qualify here. No one has a right to baptize a baby. In fact, to do so completely disregards God's direct commands regarding baptism. Misguided men in the church years ago decreed that un-baptized babies were lost, but this is scripturally untrue. It defames God as an unjust tyrant who would destroy innocent infants who died, simply because unworthy parents failed to have baptism administered. Such a teaching is tragic beyond words. It is bad enough to sprinkle babies and call it baptism. It is infinitely worse to hold to the unscriptural concept that babies are lost eternally because careless parents failed to do their duty.

Baptism does not guarantee salvation. It is not a magical rite. Salvation comes only as a free gift from Jesus Christ when one experiences the new birth. Baptism is a symbol of true conversion, and unless conversion precedes baptism, the ceremony is meaningless.

### **How to know God's will when making important Decisions?**

#### **8 Principles to remember**

1. God promises wisdom when we ask. James 1:5
2. Search your heart for any hidden or known sin which may hinder God from answering your prayers. Psalm 66:18
3. Analyze your motives to discover whether what you desire is for God's glory. James 4:3
4. Believe not only that God desires to guide you but that HE WILL GUIDE YOU!  
Psalms 32:8 Isaiah 58:11
5. Discover whether there are any Biblical principles involved in the decision you are going to make. God often guides us through His Word. Psalm 119:10, 11, 105, 133
6. Seek counsel from godly Christian counselors who believe in God's Word.  
Proverbs 11:14, 15
7. Look for providences, divine ordained circumstances, which indicate which way you should go. They do not take the place of God's Word or sound judgment.  
Proverbs 23:36, Ecclesiastes 8:5 Romans 8:28
8. When you have earnestly prayed about a decision, have consulted God's Word, thought carefully about it, sought counsel and watched for providential leadings, make the wisest decision possible believing God Himself is leading you! Psalms 90:12