

What Does Baptism Symbolize?

The New Testament offers great wisdom and guidance to help us understand the purpose of baptism.

Baptism is a symbol of our faith (See: [Acts 8:12-13](#)). The model we see in the New Testament is that when someone became a new believer (demonstrating faith in Jesus), they repented and were baptized. Baptism serves as a vital step for those declaring their faith in Jesus.

Baptism is a symbol of being buried and raised to life with Jesus (See: [Romans 6:3-4](#)). When we are baptized, it is the means by which we enter into the death of Jesus, and it is also how we are raised up into new life in Jesus.

When we take into consideration the scope of New Testament insight on baptism, we can conclude that Jesus did not need to be baptized for the same reasons that believers do, but Jesus did need to be baptized, which is why he asked John to baptize him. By being baptized, Jesus began his work to take our place and to redeem humanity. He modeled baptism as something all believers need to do as a step in their faith walk. This remains true for believers today.

Why Did Jesus Need to be Baptized?

- Jesus, Who was sinless and blameless, chose to be baptized as a sign of identification, obedience and fulfillment.
- Through His baptism, Jesus showed solidarity with humanity and demonstrated His obedience to God's Will.
- Jesus' baptism showed that He identified with sinners.
- The baptism of Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies and marked the beginning of His Mission to save humanity.
- As Jesus Was baptized, the Voice of God proclaimed Him as the Beloved Son and the Long-Awaited Messiah. The occasion of the public baptism recorded for all future generations the perfect embodiment of the triune God revealed in glory from heaven.
- Jesus' baptism was a momentous event, representing His readiness to bear the weight of our sins and offer us the Gift of Eternal Life.