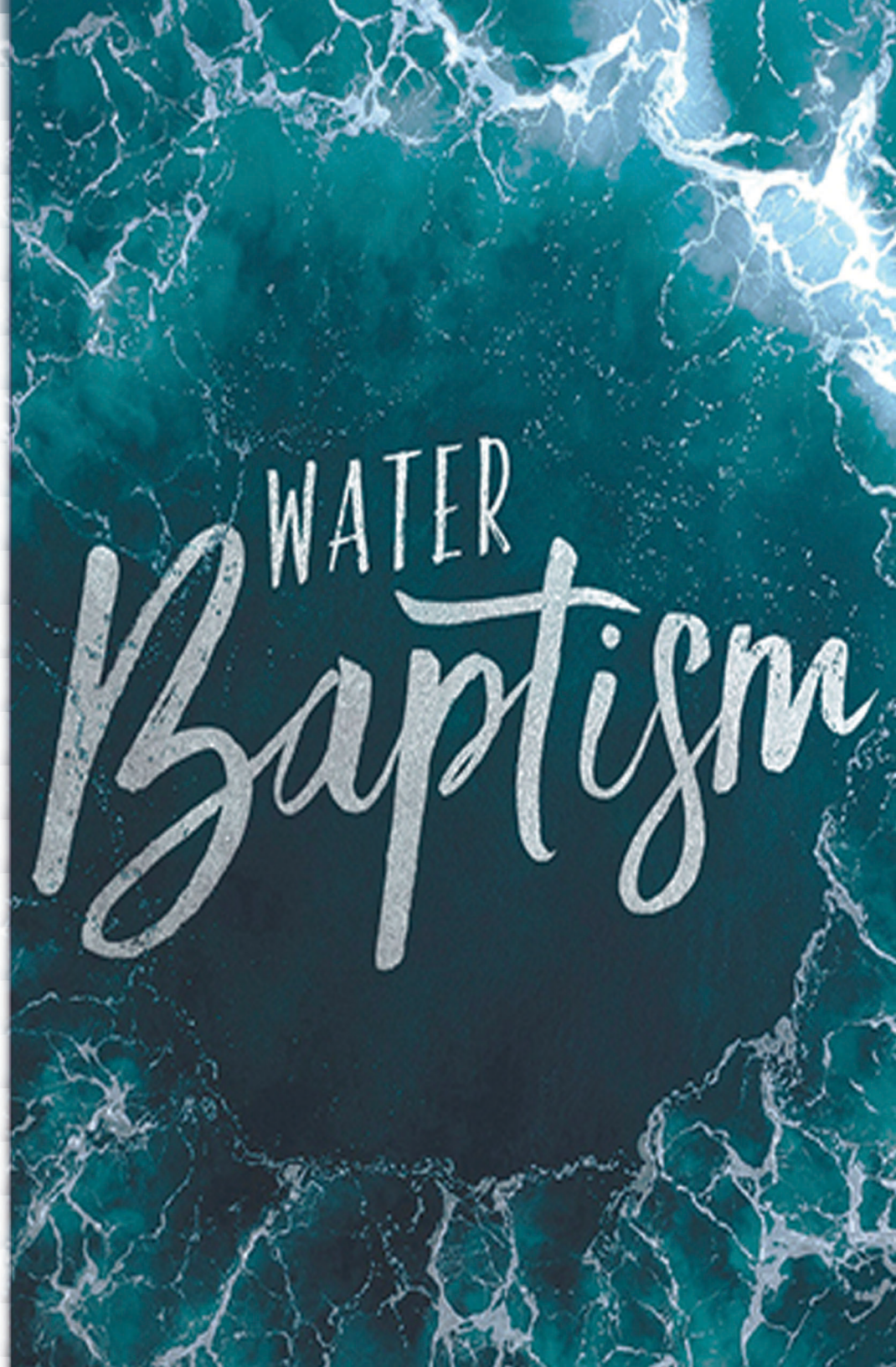


Notes:



Orange County Gospel Fellowship
78 Cypress Road
Goshen, NY
www.orangecountyfellowship.org

What Is Baptism?

The word baptism comes from the Greek word “baptizo” which means to submerge or immerse, dip, plunge, sink or overwhelm.

The method of immersion was practiced solely for at least 200 years by the early church. There is no evidence that any other method of baptism was used.

The Didache, (Teaching) of the Twelve Disciples, was written during the late 1st Century or early 2nd Century and allowed for “pouring” over only when it was physically impossible to immerse.

- 1) It is one of the first steps of obedience to Christ as He commanded His followers to be baptised (Mt 28:19). It is the first step in public Christian witness and holy living (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:4-6).
- 2) It is a public identification with Christ (Mt.3:13, Gal 3:27) and the fellowship of believers (Acts 2:41). We follow the examples of Christ (Mk 1:9) and of the New Testament Church (Act 18:8).
- 3) It symbolizes our being crucified, buried, and resurrected with Jesus Christ and is a symbol of our union with Him (Col 2:12, Rom 6:4).
- 4) It is a symbol of cleansing from sin, having been washed by the blood of Jesus and the renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6).
- 5) It symbolizes the lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives and our unity with the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit in all of these persons of the trinity.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

If you have been born again (Jn 3:3, Rom 10:9-10). You should be compelled from within to know and obey God’s Word.

When Should I Get Baptized?

A person should get baptized immediately or as soon as possible after coming to ‘faith’ in Jesus Christ in accordance with Matthew 28:19. Consider these examples:

- 1) Pentecost - Acts 2:38 - 41
- 2) In Samaria - Acts 8:12
- 3) Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26 - 38
- 4) Cornelius Household - Acts 10:44 - 48
- 5) Lydia’s Household - Acts 16:14 - 15
- 6) Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:29 - 34
- 7) In Corinth - Acts 18:8

Where Can I Be Baptized?

A person can be baptized at any time and in any body of water large enough to be submerged.

- 1) John the Baptist baptized in the Jordan River (Mk 1:5, 9 uses “*eis*” into). Jesus came up out of the water (Mk 1:10)
- 2) John 3:23 says John the Baptist was baptizing where there was ‘much’ water.
- 3) Acts 8:28 - The Eunuch and Phillip went ‘down into’ the water.

Baptism doesn’t save us but is done as the result of *having been* ‘reborn’. Therefore there is no reason to put off Baptism if you have been *born again* (Jn 3:3-8). There is a compelling desire within every genuine believer to come into compliance with the Word of God by the Spirit of God. “Experience The Wind...”