



PRACTICES *Preparation for Baptism (Baptism in the Bible)*

Rooted in the Old Testament

Connections to drowning

- The Noah story (1 Peter 3:21)
- The Moses story (1 Corinthians 10:1-2)
- In baptism, death drowns and salvation floats!

Connection to heart/Spirit transformation

- Ezekiel 36:25-27—connection between cleansing with water and receiving a new heart and Spirit

Jesus' Baptism

- He identifies with sinners, taking on our story of needing to be cleansed and forgiven (Luke 3:21)
- The heavens are opened (Mark 1:10)—Isaiah 64:1 “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!”
- Anointed by Spirit to do God’s will (Mark 1:10)
- The Father approves and calls Jesus “Son” (Mark 1:11)

Baptism throughout the New Testament

- Unites us to Christ’s death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4)
- Incorporates us into a new society, the church (Galatians 3:27-29)
- Operates through faith (Galatians 3:26-27, Colossians 2:12)
- Means the washing away of our sin (Acts 22:16)
- Is the sign and seal of our new life (Titus 3:5, John 3:5)
- Marks the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Is the “circumcision” of the New Covenant (Colossians 2:11-12)

“In baptism, God, by water and the Spirit,

incorporates us into the new creation in his Son, Jesus Christ,

and joins us to Christ’s body, the church;

to this gift we respond in faith

and seek to shape our lives more and more to this new identity we have in Christ.”

~Leonard Vander Zee

“Baptism is a seed that germinates when nourished in the water of repentance and the sunshine of faith” ~Michael Green

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