

# The Power of Baptism in Jesus Name

By Jacob Rodriguez

**Key Verses:** Acts 2:38 (NIV)

## **Introduction:**

Throughout these seven weeks of blessings, you've learned about everything from God's forgiveness, God's family, and even God's purpose for your life. Yet today, we will discuss how you can access all of these blessings, and most importantly inherit eternal life. Our key verse says, "*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38).

Practically every religion claims to have the formula or key to eternal life. Even Christians debate over which method is the correct. However, Acts 2:38 clearly states what "every one" must do to be saved. The primary keys to avoiding judgment and spending eternity with God are 1) repentance, 2) water baptism (full immersion) in the Name of Jesus Christ, and 3) receiving the free gift of the Holy Ghost. Let's consider three purposes for being baptized in Jesus' Name.

## **Three Purposes for Being Baptized in Jesus' Name:**

### ***1. To Express your Faith in Jesus Christ***

- a) **Your faith *Expressed*.** One purpose of water baptism is to express your absolute faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It shows that you believe—that your heart is convinced about Christ, and has accepted His sacrifice. When listeners in the New Testament believed the Gospel message, they were baptized (Ref. Acts 2:41). Water baptism is a sign, a public declaration that you have believed in Jesus Christ. It is not just a ceremony or religious act; it is a personal assertion that you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- b) **His Name *Confessed*.** Acts 19:5 says, "*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*" Expressing your faith is important, however, there is also a Biblical *method* for baptism. The proper way to express saving faith in Jesus is to have His Name confessed at the moment of baptism. In the verse just cited, the candidates expressed their faith in Jesus by being baptized in the name of Jesus. Any other method is incorrect according to what Jesus and his apostles taught.

### ***2. To Experience Genuine Salvation***

- a) **Into the *Water*.** Without doubt, baptism is a vital part of our salvation experience. Although some conclude otherwise, the Bible specifically says, "*Whoever*

believes and is **baptized** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). In order to be saved and receive eternal life, you must be baptized. The Bible never suggests that sprinkling or dousing is a form of baptism—only full submersion into water.

- b) **Into the Name.** Acts 4:12 says, “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*” The proper way to mix water baptism with New Testament salvation is to invoke the **Name of Jesus**. Some will use other names, titles or descriptions of God when baptizing, but the Biblical way is clearly identified in Acts 2:38.

### 3. To Empathize with Jesus Christ

- a) **Baptism is a Burial.** Another reason for being baptized is to empathize with Jesus Christ. To *empathize* is to *identify* with another—to *put yourself in someone else’s shoes* so that you can relate with them. Baptism is part of our personal discovery with Jesus Christ. Through it, we symbolically identify with his death, burial and resurrection into new life. The Bible says, “*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life*” (Romans 6:4).
- b) **Baptism is a new Birth.** Baptism is part of our new birth into the family of God. Titus 3:5 says, “*...He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*” To experience the new birth, you must be baptized with water, and with the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, “*...no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit*” (John 3:5). No other formula, prayer or spoken confession can produce a new life. Your fresh start begins when you receive baptism in Jesus Name.

### Final Thoughts:

In summary, baptism in the name of Jesus shows that we trust in Jesus alone. It’s an expression that we believe He is our Lord and supreme Savior. Only Jesus Christ can take away our sins and grant us eternal life. When we are baptized, we take on His precious and powerful Name. Every blessing we have discussed in this series hinges on the blessing of baptism. If you have not been baptized in Jesus Name for the remissions of sins, perhaps it’s time to consider making that step.

### Steps for Growth:

- a) Of the three purposes for baptism, which one is often overlooked and why?
- b) Discuss why it’s important to identify with Jesus Christ through baptism.
- c) Ask if anyone is interested in baptism, or learning more about it. Pray with them and follow up.