

DAY 1

Salvation (*Saying Yes to Jesus*) doesn't fix all of our problems; it equips us to face our problems. Being baptized is not equal to salvation; it shows a picture of salvation.

You publicly profess your faith when you are baptized. Now, you get to walk with Jesus as a continued daily "yes" affirming to God, yourself, and those around you that you have been made new. A new person and a new life. Just as you said "yes" to Jesus at the moment of salvation, you get to keep saying "yes" to Him. No matter what happens, we can have peace in Jesus, who promised us: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (*John 16:33*)

In Luke 3, we see a man named John reminding the Israelite people of their need for God. He travels through the surrounding areas of the Jordan River, encouraging his listeners to be "*baptized*" as a sign of repentance for walking away from what God had; returning to God and His commands. When we say he "*baptized*" them, we simply mean that he immersed them in water symbolizing Christ's death and burial, and bringing them back up as a symbol of Christ's resurrection and identifying with Him in that we are not the person we were when entering in. We are a new person, we are no longer defined by our sin, but brought to new life with Jesus.

That's essentially what baptism is:

You have been made new in your salvation, and baptism is a symbol to those watching — and to those you tell later — that you are no longer a slave to sin and death but are alive in Christ. Because of Jesus, everyone can live in freedom.

We came to Him broken and sinful. We leave His Presence made new and full of hope. In the same way, when we enter the water, we enter as men and women who were broken, lost, hurting. When we come up out of the water, it represents that we've been washed of our sins, freed from our chains, and made into a brand-new person!

No matter what's in our past, baptism is a mark of how Jesus has changed us and we can have a better future with Him.

Read: Luke 3:1-18 | Matthew 3:1-6